



Kerala HC denies bail to actor Dileep, says the case is unique
page 5



Ex-ISRO Chairman U.R. Rao, who gave India its first spacecraft, is dead
page 7



Prannoy beats Kashyap, claims U.S. Open badminton crown
page 16

NEARBY



Amarinder offers DSP post to Harmanpreet

CHANDIGARH
Punjab CM has offered cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur the post of Deputy Superintendent of Police, besides a cash award of ₹5 lakh, for her brilliant show in the ICC Women's World Cup 2017.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 2

Your Friend for IAS preparation
Download
IASBUZZ app
available on

DM's remark on toilet raises a stink

PATNA
Angry with a villager's "pestering question" during a public meeting, a district magistrate in Bihar asked the person to "sell off his wife if he could not build a toilet for her." The young officer later said he was quoted "out of context after distorting the issue".

NATION ▶ PAGE 6

DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

NIA arrests 7 J&K separatist leaders for 'creating unrest'

Agency wants to go beyond case of terror funding to unveil larger conspiracy

VIAJITA SINGH
PEERZADA ASHIQ
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

Seven second-rung separatist leaders were arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday for their alleged role in "creating unrest" in the Kashmir valley.

A senior NIA official told *The Hindu* that it was not investigating the case as that of "terror funding" alone, but to get to the root of the larger conspiracy to "keep the Valley burning over the last decade."

The NIA informed Home Minister Rajnath Singh about 10 days ago that it had collected enough evidence to make the first round of arrests in the case. The Hurriyat has called a shutdown on Tuesday against the arrests. None of the top leadership of the Hurriyat conference, including Syed Ali Shah Geelani, had been summoned by the NIA since it registered a case on May 30 under various sections of the anti-terror Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

The official said that inconsistencies were found in the accounts of several NGOs associated with the separatists. The key evidence against the accused persons came from traders involved

In the net

A brief profile of the seven separatists arrested by the NIA on Monday



- **Farooq Ahmad Dar** (in photo) alias Bitta Karate is the leader of one of the factions of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front

- **Aiyaz Akbar Khaney** is the spokesperson of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, led by senior Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani

- **Shahid-ul-Islam** is the spokesman for the Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led All Parties Hurriyat Conference

- **Naseem Khan** was captured in a TV sting operation earlier this year admitting to receiving funding across the border

- **Mehrajudin Kalwal**, who is a district president of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, is also a close confidant of S.A.S. Geelani

- **Hurriyat Conference leader Peer Saifullah** (in photo) is an aide of S.A.S. Geelani

in cross-LoC trade, said another NIA official. Last year, the NIA had registered a separate case to probe whether the proceeds from cross-LoC trade between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) were being used to finance terrorist activities in the Valley.

Those arrested were identified as Farooq Ahmed Dar alias Bitta Karate, Naseem Khan, Raja Mehrajuddin Kalwal, Peer Saifullah, Aftab Hilal Shah alias Shahid-ul-Islam, Aiyaz Akbar Khaney and Altaf Ahmed Shah alias Fantoosh Geelani, the son-in-law of hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Six persons were arrested in Srinagar and they were

being brought to Delhi for questioning. Dar was arrested in New Delhi when he was called to NIA headquarters for examination. "We analysed all the FIRs and videos related to stone-pelting incidents in the past one year. Those arrested for such crimes were interrogated and a lot of evidence was extracted from social media. When irrefutable evidence was gathered, we decided to arrest them," Alok Mittal, Inspector General, NIA told *The Hindu*. According to Mr. Mittal, it was an ongoing investigation and more arrests were likely in the case. The arrests followed several rounds of questioning of the suspects in Srinagar and in

Delhi, said Mr. Mittal.

The FIR registered by the NIA said, "The Central government has received credible information that Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, head of Jamaat-ud-Dawah, and the separatist leaders including the members of the Hurriyat conference have been acting in connivance with active militants of proscribed organisations Hizbul Mujahideen, Dukhtaran-e-Milat, Lashkar-e-Taiba and others for raising, receiving and collecting funds domestically and abroad through various illegal channels, including hawala to wage war against India."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

against the conviction.

"Pandher was never named in the CBI charge sheet in the Pinki Sarkar case. The investigation had also proved that he had left for Dehradun on October 5, 2006, from his Noida office and returned on October 10. This in turn proved that he was not involved," Mr. Singh said.

According to the CBI charge sheet, Koli confessed to having lured Pinki, who was returning from work, into the house on October 5, 2006, killing and dismembering her, and dumping parts of her body in a drain near the house.

Meanwhile, there was a sense of relief among the victim's kin, Jhabhu Lal, whose daughter Jyoti was one of those killed, said: "The harshest punishment should be meted out to both."

SEE ALSO DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 3

Karnan to petition the new President

Aiming to make it the first petition to him

SOUMYA DAS
KOLKATA

Stepping up his effort to get remission of the six-month prison sentence awarded to him by the Supreme Court for contempt of court, former Calcutta High Court judge C.S. Karnan will appeal to the new President, Ram Nath Kovind, soon after he assumes office.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over phone his lawyer Mathews J. Nedumpara said they were aiming to make it the "first petition submitted physically and electronically" to the new President "within minutes" of his swearing-in.

Mr. Nedumpara also said that the final draft of the petition to the new President was prepared on Monday. Justice (retd.) Karnan is currently serving the prison sentence at the Presidency Jail in Kolkata following his arrest from Coimbatore by a Bengal Police team in June.

Earlier he had also written to West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi seeking parole.

"Inscrutable are the ways of the Almighty. It could be His will that Justice C.S. Karnan's be the first representation which Your Excellency as the President of India [will receive] on the very first day of assumption of office. And that too, seeking the exercise of Your Excellency's extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 72 of the Constitution of India," stated the petition.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

C.S. Karnan

Death penalty for Pandher, Koli in Pinki Sarkar case

Duo charge-sheeted in 16 of 19 Nithari cases



Surinder Koli and Moninder Pandher being taken to a jail in Ghaziabad on Monday. ▶ PTI

(causing disappearance of evidence) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC. Mr. Sharma said the duo had already been convicted and sentenced in six cases, while nine were in various stages of trial.

Pandher and Koli were charge-sheeted in 16 of the 19 cases and three cases were closed for want of evidence.

Koli has already been sentenced to death in seven of the 16 cases.

Pandher's lawyer Devraj Singh had said on Saturday his client would appeal

against the conviction.

"Pandher was never named in the CBI charge sheet in the Pinki Sarkar case. The investigation had also proved that he had left for Dehradun on October 5, 2006, from his Noida office and returned on October 10. This in turn proved that he was not involved," Mr. Singh said.

According to the CBI charge sheet, Koli confessed to having lured Pinki, who was returning from work, into the house on October 5, 2006, killing and dismembering her, and dumping parts of her body in a drain near the house.

Meanwhile, there was a sense of relief among the victim's kin, Jhabhu Lal, whose daughter Jyoti was one of those killed, said: "The harshest punishment should be meted out to both."

SEE ALSO DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 3

Mount Abu scales new peak in rainfall

Receives 770 mm in 24 hours, parts of Rajasthan face flood-like situation



It pored: Life was thrown out of gear as it had rained incessantly for the past two days. ▶ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mumbai to a standstill in 2005 was 944 mm and 644 mm on July 26 and 27, whereas Chennai was brought to its knees in 2015 with a cumulative November tally of 1,049 mm.

A rise in extreme rainfall events, according to experts, is the consequence of a spike

in temperatures across India in recent decades, and its effect on the monsoon. "Mt. Abu being hilly may not see a situation like Mumbai. But it is now well established that these rain records are a fall-out of global warming," Mr. Srivastava said.

Mt. Abu is located at an elevation of 4,000 feet above the sea level. As incessant rain created chaos in the hill station, a large number of people were marooned, and the 28 km-long road that connects it to the Abu Road railway station was partially damaged.

Tanveer Hussain, a medical officer at the government hospital in Mt. Abu, told *The Hindu* that life was thrown out of gear as it had been raining incessantly for the past two days. "There were two incidents of landslides, but thankfully, the route to Abu Road is still somewhat functional despite partial damage," he said. "All the markets, offices and schools in the town were closed."

(With inputs from Jacob Koshy)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Over 15,000 people relocated in GUJARAT ▶ PAGE 10

Speaker suspends six Cong. MPs for 5 days

Furore in LS as members seek to discuss cow vigilantism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on Monday suspended six Congress MPs for five days for "unruly behaviour" and disrupting the proceedings of the House.

Ordering their suspension amid noisy protests by Congress members and counter-slogans of "shame, shame" from the BJP benches, the Speaker said the conduct of Gaurav Gogoi, K. Suresh, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Ranjeet Ranjan, Sushmita Dev and M.K. Raghavan was "highly unbecoming" and had undermined the Chair's dignity.

Stormy start

The Lok Sabha got off to a stormy start in the morning with leader of the Congress Mallikarjun Kharge demanding a discussion on widespread incidents of mob violence and murder. The party had moved an adjournment motion for the discussion but it was denied.

Bofors resurrected

Through the din, treasury MPs, Meenakshi Lekhi and Nishikant Dubey raised certain disclosures on the Bofors gun deal by a television channel. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar reiterated the government's position placed on record in the Rajya Sabha by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley that the government had condemned violence in the

name of the cow and the vigilants attached to it.

Opposition members, however, insisted on a discussion on the issue, saying they were not being allowed to raise it in the House.

In the melee, that continued through zero hour, papers were torn and thrown towards the Well of the House.

At this, Speaker Mahajan adjourned the House till 2 p.m. In the interim she suspended the six MPs and announced her decision after the House reconvened. The House was adjourned again amid protests by the Congress.

(With inputs from PTI)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Don't harbour unrealistic illusions, China tells India

Will safeguard security at any cost, says Defence Ministry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING

China said on Monday that it will safeguard its security interests at "any cost" as its sovereignty was "indomitable", amid a standoff with India in the Sikkim sector.

Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Wu Qian made this assertion ahead of this week's National Security Advisers' (NSA) talks to resolve the standoff.

Maintaining China's hard-line stance on the issue, Mr. Wu told a media briefing that "India should not leave things to luck and not har-

bour any unrealistic illusions."

Commenting on the over a month-long standoff between the troops of the two countries in the Doklam area in the Sikkim section, Mr. Wu urged India to "correct its mistake."

Stating that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had taken emergency measures in the region and continued to increase focused deployments and drills, he said, "We strongly urge India to take practical steps to correct its mistake, cease provocations, and meet China

halfway in jointly safeguarding the border region's peace and tranquillity."

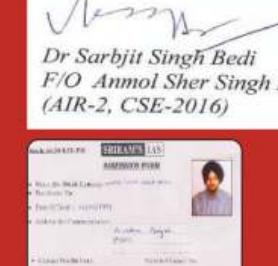
His comments came as National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is set to travel to Beijing this week to attend the BRICS NSAs' meeting scheduled to be held from July 27-28 during which he is expected to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi. Both Mr. Doval and Mr. Yang are Special Representatives of the two countries in the boundary talks.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

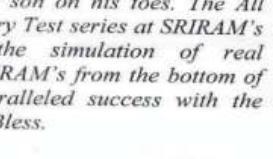
SRIRAM's IAS

I admitted my son Anmol Sher at SRIRAM's, Delhi for General Studies in 2015 for the Prelims cum Mains Programme. Since our expectations were high, we searched for the best institute. As an educationist myself, I was clear what mattered: quality of coaching, best faculty in all subjects; periodical evaluation; competitive tests as a part of the Programme. Anmol would keep me informed about the coaching and how various aspects were dealt. I was constantly in touch with Anmol throughout his journey. The remarks related to the quality of coaching and the daily test showed that the guidance was of high quality. In-house evaluators did their job very well. The classroom exams used to keep my son on his toes. The All India Rank in Preliminary Test series at SRIRAM's provided him with the simulation of real competition. I thank SRIRAM's from the bottom of my heart for his unparalleled success with the grace of Almighty. God Bless.

Dr Sarbjit Singh Bedi
F/O Anmol Sher Singh Bedi
(AIR-2, CSE-2016)



Anmol Sher Singh Bedi
AIR-2
1st Attempt



Anmol Sher Singh Bedi
AIR-2
1st Attempt

No separate toll plaza lanes for politicians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW
The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday revoked its decision to provide a dedicated corridor at toll plazas for lawmakers in case of traffic snarls, after drawing flak from the Opposition.

Advisory 'modified'

Additional Chief Secretary Sadakant issued letters to all district magistrates and divisional commissioners "modifying" an advisory dated July 13, which he said had led to confusion and raised a number of questions.

It was mentioned in the advisory that in case of long traffic jams at toll collection centres and plazas, there should be a provision for separate lane for VVIPs.

"...it is being made clear that for the VVIPs, no separate lane at the toll plazas will be constructed. All the facilities which are existing at the toll plazas/toll collection centres will be applicable for all the citizens. The previously issued advisory stands modified," the Additional Chief Secretary said in the letter.

Amarinder offers DSP post to cricketer Harmanpreet

Recognition of her talent will motivate other sportspersons, says father

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has offered cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur the post of Deputy Superintendent of Police, besides a cash award of ₹5 lakh, for her brilliant show in the ICC Women's World Cup 2017.

Capt. Amarinder also promised to review the State's sports policy to provide government jobs to young sportspersons and pointed out that by offering Ms. Kaur the post, he wanted to correct a "wrong done to her" by the previous Shiromani Akali Dal government.

Reacting to the news, Ms. Kaur's father Harmander Singh on Monday said "it's better late than never".

'Better late than never'

"We are happy that the government has recognised her talent and offered her a job. To encourage young sportspersons, the government should sincerely implement its policies. It's better late than never," Mr. Singh, who is a clerk in the Moga



Superb performance: Batter Harmanpreet Kaur in action in Derby, England. ■ GETTY IMAGES

district court, told *The Hindu*.

He believes that while his daughter's performance has

Ms. Kaur's cricketing genius was first noticed by sports lover Kamaldeesh Singh Sodhi, who runs the Gyan Jyoti Senior Secondary School in Darapur, about 20 km from Moga.

Spotted in 2006

"It was in 2006 when I spotted Harmanpreet playing cricket with boys in a local playground. I was preparing a cricket team for my school at the time and after witnessing her talent, I was absolutely convinced that she should be in my team," said Mr. Sodhi.

Expenses paid

He along with his son Yadwinder then approached Ms. Kaur's father, and convinced him to let her pursue cricket. Subsequently, she was admitted to the school run by Mr. Sodhi.

"They [Kamaldeesh and Yadwinder] were convinced of Harmanpreet's talent. As I had little money in those days, they paid for all her expenses till she passed out from the school in 2009," said Mr. Singh.

Major initiatives taken under the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan

Gangotri glacier retreated 0.15 sq km in 9 years: govt

'ISRO studied glacier's melting with maps of 1962 as base'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Gangotri glacier has retreated 0.15 sq km between 2007 and 2016, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday.

Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan in a written reply said the melting of Gangotri glacier has been studied by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by taking Survey of India maps of 1962 as the base.

He said that the area of the Gangotri glacier was estimated to be 224.42 sq km from the maps of 1962, while from 1990 onwards satellite data was used to monitor the Himalayan



Moving back: Stone marking showing retreat of the Gangotri glacier. ■ FILE PHOTO

Ecosystem (NMSHE) under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) include establishment of a Centre for Himalayan Glaciology at the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology in Dehradun and setting up of six thematic task forces, he said.

Climate changes

They include natural and geological wealth, water, ice, snow including glaciers, micro flora and fauna and wildlife and animal population, Himalayan agriculture, traditional knowledge systems and forest resources

and plant diversity.

He said climate change centres have been set up in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya and West Bengal.

He added that as per the fifth assessment report (AR5) of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in 2014, globally land and ocean surface temperature has risen by 0.85 degrees Celsius (0.65 to 1.06 degrees) over the period of 1880 to 2012.

Cong MLAs express concern over probe in Shimla case

'State govt mishandled the case'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
SHIMLA

Congress MLAs in Himachal Pradesh shot off a letter to the party's high command on Monday, expressing dissatisfaction with the probe into the recent rape and murder of a schoolgirl in Kothkai here, and the State government's handling of the sensitive issue.

More than half a dozen MLAs, who wrote to the All India Congress Committee (AICC), said that it was becoming difficult to defend the party considering Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh's remarks in the case. Mr. Singh, who is yet to visit Kothkai, had said that such things happen everywhere and that the Opposition was triggering protests.

This, even as senior Cabinet Minister Kaul Singh Thakur stressed the need for the party to remain united considering the approaching Vidhan Sabha elections.

Questioning the police probe and subsequent

transfer of the case to the CBI, the MLAs have allegedly called for a change in the State leadership. However, they advocated for the party's State chief, Sukhwinder Singh, to continue with the post.

Mr. Singh, meanwhile, said that he had received the letter, reportedly signed by two senior Congress ministers. Dismissing it as routine party matter, he added that about seven legislators had expressed concern over the mishandling of the case and the Chief Minister's statements.

When contacted, MLAs from the anti-Virbhadra Singh faction denied having sought his ouster. However, they added that they had signed letters in favour of the State chief.

Leader of the Opposition Prem Kumar Dhumal visited the victim's parents in Kothkai on Monday. He appealed to the people to reveal facts before the CBI so that the real culprits are punished.

J&K bans sale of e-cigarettes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar
The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday banned the sale of e-cigarettes in the State with immediate effect.

"A complete ban has been imposed on the sale (including online sale), manufacture, distribution, trade, import and advertisement of Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS)/ e-cigarettes in the State with immediate effect," a statement issued by Directorate of Health Services Kashmir said.

A circular to this effect was issued on Monday to discourage the consumption of tobacco products by the public, especially the younger generation of the state, Director Health Services Dr Saleem ur Rehman said.

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any statement or information referred to or published in this newspaper. Kasturi & Sons Limited, the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, shall not be liable for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products or services. In no event can the Owner, Directors, Employees of this newspaper or company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com

EDUCATIONAL

OPT
ADMISSION OPEN
Seats are limited*

BEST SCORING &
SAFEST OPTIONAL

NEW BATCHES
COMMENCE

7 AUG.

INSIGHT
102-103, OLD RAJINDER NAGAR
B-18, SATIJA HOUSE MUKHERJEE NAGAR
011-45090051, 9818333201

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



Smt. AKILA ARUL
Director, M/S. Micromen
Attained Heavenly Abode
on 25.07.16
Deeply Missed by
Family & Friends

DEATH



THULASI JAYARAMAN
W/o Late K. Jayaraman
Joined Appa on
23rd July 2017 at USA
in merging with
Bhagavan Ramana & Shirdi Sai
Inserted by:
Dr. Suresh Jayaraman
001-703-473-0996
sjayaraman37@gmail.com
Rajesh Jayaraman
001-703-473-5501
rjayaraman19@gmail.com
& Family Members

DEATH



Pamarty V. Rao
has united with God
Grieving Family
and Friends
9840056721/9840424240

In memory of your loved ones

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Over 2.40 lakh devotees pay obeisance at Amarnath shrine

Yatra crosses 2016 mark; two more weeks to go

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU

The number of pilgrims who offered prayers at the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir hills this year has surpassed the number of devotees in 2016, even as there are two more weeks before the yatra concludes.

According to a senior official, 2,40,249 pilgrims had 'darshan' at the cave shrine till Sunday evening.

"As per the figures for the year 2016, 2,20,490 devotees had offered prayers. So far, 19,759 more pilgrims have paid obeisance at Amarnath as compared to 2016," the official said.

However, the number of pilgrims this year is still less than that for 2015, when 3,52,771 pilgrims had visited the cave shrine, he said.

Meanwhile, the 25th batch of 66,156 pilgrims have left Jammu for Amarnath this year. The yatra began from Jammu on June 28.

Security cover

The government has provided a heavy security blanket of over 35,000 to 40,000 troops, including

police, the batch consisting of 477 males, 146 females plus 50 sadhus and sadhvis left in a convoy of 24 vehicles for Baltal and Pahalgam base camps on Monday morning, officials said.

With this batch, a total of 66,156 pilgrims have left Jammu for Amarnath this year. The yatra began from Jammu on June 28.

This year, the yatra will conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 7.

Situated in a narrow gorge at the farther end of Lidder Valley, Amarnath shrine is 46 km from Pahalgam and 14 km from Baltal.

the police, the Army, the BSF and the CRPF, for the yatra.

On July 10, a bus carrying pilgrims in the Anantnag district was attacked by terrorists. Eight devotees died and 32 were injured in the attack.

This year, the yatra will conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 7.

Situated in a narrow gorge at the farther end of Lidder Valley, Amarnath shrine is 46 km from Pahalgam and 14 km from Baltal.

the police, the Army, the BSF and the CRPF, for the yatra.

On July 10, a bus carrying

pilgrims in the Anantnag district was attacked by terrorists. Eight devotees died and 32 were injured in the attack.

This year, the yatra will conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 7.

Situated in a narrow gorge at the farther end of Lidder Valley, Amarnath shrine is 46 km from Pahalgam and 14 km from Baltal.

the police, the Army, the BSF and the CRPF, for the yatra.

On July 10, a bus carrying

pilgrims in the Anantnag district was attacked by terrorists. Eight devotees died and 32 were injured in the attack.

This year, the yatra will conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 7.

the police, the Army, the BSF and the CRPF, for the yatra.

On July 10, a bus carrying

pilgrims in the Anantnag district was attacked by terrorists. Eight devotees died and 32 were injured in the attack.

This year, the yatra will conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 7.

the police, the Army, the BSF and the CRPF, for the yatra.

On July 10, a bus carrying

pilgrims in the Anantnag district was attacked by terrorists. Eight devotees died and 32 were injured in the attack.

This year, the yatra will conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 7.

the police, the Army, the BSF and the CRPF, for the yatra.

On July 10, a bus carrying

pilgrims in the Anantnag district was attacked by terrorists. Eight devotees died and 32 were injured in the attack.

This year, the yatra will conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 7.

the police, the Army, the BSF and the CRPF, for the yatra.

On July 10, a bus carrying

pilgrims in the Anantnag district was attacked by terrorists. Eight devotees died and 32 were injured in the attack.

This year, the yatra will conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 7.



Waterway: A vendor pulls his cart through a waterlogged street in Kolkata on Monday. ■ AFP

Heavy rain leaves parts of Bengal waterlogged

More rain forecast today; Banerjee says situation grim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Large parts of south Bengal have been inundated due to torrential rain in Kolkata and adjoining areas during the past three days, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee calling the situation grim but "not out of control".

After taking stock of the situation on Monday morning, Ms. Banerjee said her government had sent relief, especially tents and blankets, to the affected areas. Later, she left for Delhi to participate in the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Ram Nath Kovind.

Reservoir water released
The CM has blamed the release of water from the reservoirs for the grim situation but added that there was "yet to be a flood situation". Labhpur in Birbhum, Ara-

mbagh in Hooghly, Ghatal in West Medinipur are some of the worst affected districts where many people have been displaced.

What has aggravated the situation is the high tide in Hooghly river. With heavy rain likely to persist over the next few days, the State government is on high alert.

Officials at the Regional Meteorological Centre in Asipore said acute spells of rain or thundershowers were likely till Tuesday.

State Irrigation Minister Rabib Banerjee said the Damodar Valley Corporation had released 18,000 cusecs of water from its dams following heavy rain in Jharkhand.

"We have requested them not to release more water. Our preparations are in line with the forecast for the next two days [Tuesday and Wednesday]," he said.

"In some areas, the cumulative rainfall for the past four days is 600 mm or more. No embankments have been breached. We have made arrangements to increase the height of some of the embankments," he added.

Chaos in Kolkata

Certain places in the Kolkata Metropolitan Area such as Garia, Chittaranjan Avenue, Ultadanga, Baguiati and Behala remained waterlogged for a large part of the day. Traffic movement was also slow on these stretches.

In north Kolkata, a portion of a dilapidated building crumbled while one person was electrocuted in Ultadanga. Control rooms have been set up at the State Secretariat and the leaves of all officials and employees of the Irrigation Department have been cancelled till October 31.

Join T.I.M.E. for GATE ESE PSUs
ECE • EEE • ME • CSE • IN • CE
EDU + TUTORIALS • Classroom programme for GATE/ESE
Bi-Weekly Doubt Classes & Individual Doubt Sessions
Daily Practice Paper • 20+ Workshops
Comprehensive Study Material • Video Lecture + Test Series
Small Batch Size (High Faculty to Student Ratio)
Facilities from ₹150/-

Our GATE 2017 Results

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 st | 1 st | 3 rd |
| Thomas Arun | Prashant | Rishabh Motwani |
| 3 rd | 6 th | 19 th |
| Kalpana Kumar | Ramana Kumar | Sachin Kumar |
| 8 more ranks in Top 50 | | |

We are celebrating!
Flat ₹12,500/- discount
on GATE/ESE classroom course fee
Hurry! Limited period offer. Enroll Today!

T.I.M.E.
Triumphers Institute of Management Education Pvt. Ltd., Sector 13, Faridabad, Haryana, Ph: 01803403314/403

BYJU'S CLASSES MAINS 2017
Mains Test Series @ Rs 5,000/- Starts 29th July

13th Total 10 tests 6th Mains Tests (2 Mock Tests for each GS paper) 4th Intermediate Full Length Tests Special care taken for the 100 students available in batches of 100 for enhancing writing skills
Offer for one Mock Test per paper each session. Merit-based Assignments available for current affairs, India Year Book and Economic Survey 2016-2017

JUDGE YOURSELF AMONG ASPIRANTS ACROSS INDIA
CITIES: ■ VENKALUR ■ HYDERABAD ■ TRICHY ■ GOVINDPURA ■ PUNE ■ CHANDIGARH

9873643487



Beautiful by choice

Vicco Turmeric Cream is enriched with healing turmeric and soothing sandalwood oil. It nourishes and heals my skin, making it soft, supple and radiant.

Being a modern woman means you make your own choices.

I choose beautiful and healthy skin.



An Ayurvedic medicinal remedy for acne, pimples, blemishes and other skin conditions.

Customer Care Cell No. 0712-2420890 • www.viccolabs.com • Like us on [Facebook](#) /ViccoLabs

SWACHH HARYANA - SWACHH BHARAT

• All villages & 10 cities now ODF. Remaining cities will be ODF during 2017.
• Karnal City First in Swachhta Survekshan-2017 in Northern India in 2 to 10 lakh population category.
• Prize of ₹ 1 Lakh to Gram Panchayats and ₹ 10,000 at District Level under Swarna Jayanti Swachhta Puraskar Scheme.
• Separate toilets for boys & girls in all schools.
• Largest Solid Waste Management Plant at Bandhwadi for Gurugram & Faridabad.
• Solid Waste Management Projects in Gram Panchayats.

[twitter.com/NEXTIASMADEEASY](#)

[www.facebook.com/NEXTIASMADEEASY](#)

[www.nextias.com](#)

NEXT IAS

BIG LEARNINGS MADE EASY

AN INITIATIVE OF **MADE EASY** GROUP • UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF Mr. B. SINGH (CMD, MADE EASY GROUP)

Next IAS, an initiative of MADE EASY Group, is here to become a Friend, Philosopher and Guide for Civil Services aspirants. MADE EASY- a name synonymous with success in ESE and GATE exams is known for imparting quality education, its professionalism and for service to students. Our organisation strongly believes in quality of teaching and service.

Next IAS aims to bring the same level of expertise and dedication for student services who are preparing for Civil Services Examination. ■

Open Discussion Session on

"How to Crack Civil Services Examination"

by Ms. Saumya Pandey

AIR 4, CSE 2016

on

25th July, 2017

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

at NEXT IAS

Old Rajinder Nagar Centre

Exclusive Batch for CSE (Main) 2017 Current Issues

- Current affairs based coverage of 100 important topics for Mains 2017.
- 2 Months course with approx. 150 teaching hours.
- Integrated with answer writing skill development program.
- Includes classes on Essay writing skill development.
- Interactive classroom sessions and one to one interaction with faculty.
- Includes GS and Essay test series for CSE Mains 2017.
- Well planned and professionally managed programme.

Location : Old Rajinder Nagar

Timings : 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Monday to Friday (5 Days a week)

Batch starting from 10th Aug, 2017

Admissions Open

General Studies Pre cum Main 2018 Batch

Saket Centre

Batch starting from 24th July'17

Timings : 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Old Rajinder Nagar Centre

Batch starting from 24th July'17

Timings : 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

- Well framed modules with systematic subject sequence, for timely completion of syllabus.
- Team of experts for guidance on improving answer writing skills for main examinations.
- Current based approach as a pivot for targeted preparation.
- Gist of newspaper analysis referring copious newspapers through articles and videos.

Admissions Open

Main Test Series for CSE 2017 (Offline/Online)

GENERAL STUDIES

8 Full Syllabus Tests

Commencing from 30th July'17

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

8 Tests

Commencing from 30th July'17

Subjects : Mechanical Engg, Civil Engg, Electrical Engg, Public Administration, Geography

ESSAY

5 Tests

Strictly based on UPSC format

Commencing from

6th Aug'17

Learn the techniques of essay writing

- 3 days orientation class on various aspects of essay writing.
- Test discussion and detailed analysis of all topics.
- Individual student feedback for continuous improvement.

Admissions Open

Reasons to Choose NEXT IAS

- Panel of 12 renowned faculties from UPSC guidance arena.
- Comprehensive coverage of syllabus.
- Well designed and in-depth study material.
- Frequent motivational and counseling seminars.
- Pre planned class schedule, with accurate implementation of time-table.
- Interactive classrooms - As we believe in "see and learn", we have best quality teaching tools with equipped audio-visual classrooms.

Old Rajinder Nagar Centre : Ground Floor, 6, Old Rajinder Nagar
(Near Salwan School Gate No. 2) New Delhi - 110060
Ph : 011-49858612, 8800338066

Saket Centre (Classes) : 316/274, Westend Marg (Near ITDC), Saidulajab,
Near Saket Metro Station, New Delhi-110030; Ph : 011-45124642, 8800776445
Admission & Enquiry : 44-A/1, Kalu Sarai, Near Hauz Khas Metro Station,
New Delhi-110016; Ph : 011-45124642, 8800776445

info@nextias.com
www.nextias.com

Tilak case: woman alleges threat to life

She had accused Congress leader of rape earlier this month

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE
The 40-year-old woman who last week filed a case of rape and unnatural sex against Congress leader Rohit Tilak, the great grandson of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, lodged another complaint on Monday with the Vishrambaug police, alleging that she was threatened with dire consequences by unidentified men.

The complainant said her car was intercepted by two motorcycle-borne men, who pulled out a bottle of acid and threatened to pour it on her if she did not withdraw her complaint against the Congress leader immediately.

"We have written to the

Pune Commissioner of Police, Rashmi Shukla, emphasising the seriousness of the matter and requesting immediate police protection for my client," said Tosif Shaikh, the complainant's lawyer.

Mr. Shaikh said his client was in grave danger as the accused was a politician of great influence.

Mr. Tilak (37), was booked last Tuesday under Sections 376 (rape), 377 (unnatural sex), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) 504, 506 (criminal intimidation) and 507 (criminal intimidation by anonymous communication), and was granted interim anticipatory bail last Friday by a special court.

The Congress leader, who is also the nephew of Mayor

and senior BJP leader Mukta Tilak, told the court that the complainant worked for an organisation run by him, but was sacked in April, and hence has lodged a false case against him. The next hearing on the bail plea will be held on July 28.

The woman had filed her first complaint on July 8. She allegedly had to cancel a press conference earlier this month owing to pressure.

The complainant has said

she met Mr. Tilak in March 2015 at a social gathering, and later connected with him on a social networking site. She said she was not aware of Mr. Tilak's marital status at the time of their meeting, and that he allegedly raped her on the pretext of marrying her.

Picture imperfect



Clean-up act: Piles of garbage washed up on the stretch between Miramar and Donapaula beaches fail to deter tourists. Drishti Lifesaving members work to keep the beach clean in the background. ■ ATISH POMBURFEKAR

Maoist killed in Gadchiroli

PAVAN DAHAT

NAGPUR
The Maharashtra police on Monday claimed to have killed Maoist leader Ram Chinna Portet alias Mangaru in a gun battle in Gadchiroli district. The encounter took place in Kampevacha forest on Sunday evening, the Gadchiroli police said.

In a separate incident, a team of the District Reserve Guard and the Special Task Force seized a huge cache of Maoist ammunition in the forest near Khunduspura village in Sukma, Chhattisgarh.

In another incident, the security forces nabbed Pandar Kadati and Somalu Potam, two alleged Maoists in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

Goa govt. to limit number of casinos

Goan residents to be banned from visiting gaming areas as per new policy



Floating casinos on the Mandovi river will be limited to the existing five, the Chief Minister said. ■ FILE PHOTO

"The Act will have a power to ensure that no Goan can visit casinos. The government will have powers to limit casinos in a particular area. The sixth casino will never enter Mandovi. We are capping it, under this Act, at

five," Mr. Parrikar said, during his nearly one-and-a-half-hour-long address in the ongoing monsoon session.

Saying that a casino is as much a vice as liquor, Mr. Parrikar said he too was as opposed to the casino in-

dustry as the Opposition legislators, but was forced to allow them to operate because several stakeholders had invested money in vessels.

He also blamed the Congress for "creating a *fait accompli*" on the issue. "We definitely opposed casinos. We also assured that we will cancel licences because that time there were no ships. When any person invests money, a State has a responsibility for continuity, right or wrong," he said justifying continuation of offshore casinos by BJP governments over the years.

He said the policy would ensure that the casinos would relocate from the river to an onshore "entertainment zone".

Activist files plea in HC against Parrikar

PRAKASH KAMAT

PANAJI

Activist-lawyer Aires Rodrigues on Monday filed a petition in the Bombay High Court at Goa, seeking *suo motu* contempt of court proceedings against Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar for repeatedly saying that the High Court had directed that a sixth offshore casino be allowed on the Mandovi river.

A copy of the petition has been sent to the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, Mr. Rodrigues said.

He has said that official records show that it was the Goa government that had permitted the sixth casino after receiving ₹44

crore. He has said that the then Additional Advocate General Dattaprasad Lawande (now the Advocate General of Goa) had told the court on August 1, 2016, that the State had favourably considered a representation by casino owners Golden Globe Hotels Private Limited seeking renewal of its casino licence, subject to payment of the annual recurring fees.

As this statement was recorded in the High Court order passed the same day, Mr. Rodrigues said it clearly demonstrated that the government had allowed the sixth offshore casino, and it was inappropriate for the Chief Minister to try to pass the buck to the High Court.

MLA tries to assault Nashik civic chief, held

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE
Independent legislator Bachchu Kadu was arrested in Nashik on Monday for allegedly misbehaving with the Nashik Municipal Commissioner, Abhishek Krishna, and attempting to assault him.

A case under Section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), among others, was lodged against the legislator from Amravati district and his supporters at the Sarkarwada police station in Nashik.

Mr. Kadu and several of his supporters created a ruckus in the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) at noon over the civic body's alleged failure to implement the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. The legislator and his followers, operating under his social outfit Prahaar Sanghatana, raised slogans against the NMC. When he was granted an audience with Mr. Krishna, the talk degenerated into a heated verbal argument. A scuffle ensued, and the MLA allegedly tried to physically assault the NMC Commissioner.

The police were called in to impose order. Deputy Commissioner Haribhai Phadol said Mr. Kadu's actions would be investigated.

Correction

In the issue of July 23, 2017, on Page 4, within a report headlined 'Mr. Fadnavis's neglected child', an internal process instruction embedded in the text by a supervising journalist got printed inadvertently after the editorial desk failed to remove it. The lapse is regretted.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

ISGS
INDIAN SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES
An associate of ALS
IAS 2017 Results 231+
KAROL BAGH (Pusa Road)

GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL

BY SACHIN ARORA

PREVIEW JULY 25

INVITATION You are cordially invited. 3:00pm

Venue: 20 Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station,

Opp. Metro Station Pillar No. 97, New Delhi-110005

9999648884, 9911803337, 28751379

165+ Selections In CSE 2016

IAS प्रीमियम'18

प्रारंभिक से मुख्य परीक्षा तक सासाकार तक हिंदू माध्यम का संपूर्ण व सर्वोच्च फाउंडेशन प्रोग्राम

Special Discount for Girls & Deserving Students

STARTING 26 JULY North Campus

STARTING 29 JULY Old Rajinder Nagar

8800495544, 9953120676

www.chronicleias.com An initiative of Civil Services Chronicle

CHRONICLE IAS ACADEMY

EDUCATIONAL

Everyone benefits from Expert advice!

McGraw-Hill writer RAMESH SINGH'S ECONOMICS GS

Evening batch: Aug 09 at 5.30pm

ECONOMICS OPTIONAL TEST SERIES [Online also] admission starts soon

ESSAY course admission open

102 Old Rajinder Nagar | 9818-244224

ध्येयIAS®
most trusted since 2003

सामान्य अध्ययन
(सार्वाधिक विश्वसनीय कक्षा कार्यक्रम)

निःशुल्क परिचर्चा के साथ बैच प्रारंभ

विनय सर

प्रातः 9:00 बजे

9205274741/42/43/44

011-47354625/26

Toll Free: 18004194445

701, 1st Floor, Main Road, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi

EDUCATIONAL

PUBLIC NOTICES

ETHICS NEW BATCH SOON

CASE STUDY WORKSHOP

31st July, 1 pm

GaMa IAS Classes

95402 01000

82185 11314

SURJEET SINGH SAINI-ADVOCATE

Seat No. 8, Hall No. 1, District Court Dwarika, N.D.-75

EDUCATIONAL

Think IAS



Think DRISHTI

सामान्य अध्ययन

निःशुल्क परिचर्चा के साथ बैच प्रारंभ

आज

प्रातः 11:30 बजे

Venue:
Vardhman Plaza,
Nehru Vihar, Delhi-09

For any query please contact:
87501 87501

IAS लोक प्रशासन 'Atul Lohiya

निःशुल्क कार्यशाला

28 & 29 July 6:30 PM

27655134, 9810651005

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice

As per directions of O/o, Edn., GNCTD,

desirous parents/students (past/present) may contact school to obtain refund of excess fee for the session 2009-10 &

2010-11 against submission of fee records with them.

By order of school management of Sanjay Bal Vidyalaya, Sec.7 & 8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-22

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed

that my client Mr. Rohtash Singh

S/o Late Shri Munshi Singh R/o

H.N.-261/A, Gali No.-18, Ajay Park, Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043, has

severed all relations with his son

namely Jagat Singh aged about 30

years and his wife Kavita aged about 27 years, and debarred them

from all his movable and immovable properties due to their misconduct

and misbehavior. My client shall not be responsible for any acts done by

them in future.

Sunil Kumar (Advocate)

EDUCATIONAL

BHARTI CONCEPT

MATHS

by S.S. Bharti

SSC, BANK PO, CSAT & ALL GOVT. SERVICES

Batch Starts 26 & 27 July

At 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi - 9.

UTTAM NAGAR, BADARPUR, ROHTAK, HISSAR, PANIPAT, REWARI, MEERUT, JAIPUR, BULANDSHAHAR

9136335283, 09

IN BRIEF



Shepherd injured in suspected leopard attack

ANANTAPUR
One person received minor injuries in a suspected leopard attack in Pulamati village of Lepakshi mandal of Anantapur district on Monday. According to the police, Ramadasu, a shepherd, was attacked by a wild animal, suspected to be a leopard, when he took his sheep out for grazing.

5 Nigerians, one Indian held for drug peddling

HYDERABAD
A gang comprising five Nigerian nationals, including a college student and a woman of Indian origin, was arrested for allegedly peddling drugs and indulging in human trafficking. The Rachakonda police seized 20 gm of cocaine, 12 gm of brown sugar, 39.8 gm of Amphetamine tablets and 1.6 kg of marijuana from them.

A.P. village turns a fortress as Kapus gear up for padayatra

Police warn leaders of stringent action; women perform pujas for rally's success

B.V.S. BHASKAR
KIRLAMPUDI/AMALAPURAM

The police and the Kapu Joint Action Committee leaders are all set for a showdown in the East Godavari district as the deadline for the "Chalo Amaravati" padayatra, announced by former Minister and Kapu leader Mudragada Padmanabham, approaches.

Around 6,000 police personnel have been deployed in the Andhra Pradesh district. Half of them have been stationed in Mr. Padmanabham's native village of Kirlampudi to prevent the padayatra that is to begin on Wednesday.

Superintendent of Police Vishal Gunni said the padayatra would not be allowed at any cost. No rallies or meetings would be allowed in the district either as Section 144 was in force.



On their toes: Police checking a vehicle at Simhadripuram village near National Highway-16 on Monday. ■ S. RAMBABU

Mr. Gunni told *The Hindu* that the police had drawn two companies of the Rapid Action Force, the Armed Reserve Force and civil police from West Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts. He put the number of police personnel manning different places in the district at 5,800.

He said 90 check-posts had been set up in the district, where sub-inspectors were posted with body-worn cameras.

"Everything will be recorded with electronic evidence and no one can take the law into his hands. We will not allow any congregation and we have not made any pre-

ventive arrests," Mr. Gunni said.

Meanwhile, women in Gollaprolu, Amalapuram Rural and Mummidiyaram performed special pujas in the local temples for the success of the padayatra.

Kapu leaders' charge

Addressing the media at Mr. Padmanabham's residence in Kirlampudi on Monday, Kapu JAC leaders alleged that the police were out to brand the Kapu community as "anti-social elements."

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao was taken into custody at Dowleswaram Barrage in Rajamahendravaram on Monday when he was travelling towards Kirlampudi to meet Mr. Padmanabham.

The Guntur police have warned Kapu community leaders of stringent action.

Monsoon weakens across Karnataka

Rainfall in south interior parts, crucial to the Cauvery Basin, remains deficient

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There is good and bad news on the Karnataka monsoon front. Going by the rainfall statistics so far, two parts of Karnataka have received "normal rainfall"—north interior Karnataka and coastal Karnataka. But rainfall in south interior Karnataka, crucial to the Cauvery Basin, remains "deficient."

On July 19, the monsoon covered the entire State for the first time since the season began. However, it is said to have weakened across the State now. "The essential systems required for the monsoon to progress is absent. It rains when there is an off-shore trough that travels across the Western



Falling short: Karnataka has received a total of 344 mm so far, which is 16% lower than normal. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ghats, covering Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, which is absent now," said S.M. Metri, Director, IMD Karnataka. The weak rainfall in coastal Karnataka had also affected the pro-

ject of rainfall in south interior Karnataka, he added.

Karnataka has received a total of 344 mm so far, which is 16% lower than normal (412 mm). However, Mr. Metri said anything above

Drug case: actor Charmee moves HC

Wants lawyer, woman police to be present during questioning

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Film actor Charmee Kaur approached the Hyderabad High Court seeking protective measures when she is interrogated by the Special Investigating Team probing the drug racket unearthed recently in Telangana.

She contended that some rumours had been spread against her and television channels were carrying sensational news for their TRP ratings.

Stating that she had received notice from the officials, she requested the court to give a direction to them to permit the presence of her advocate when she was questioned.

She also sought the pres-



Charmee Kaur

ence of a woman police officer.

Ms. Kaur requested the court to direct the investigating officers not to extract any statement forcibly from her. She said the authorities should not be permitted to take samples of blood, hair

Anticipatory bail for Senkumar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday granted anticipatory bail to former State Police Chief T.P. Senkumar in a criminal case, registered in connection with the alleged communal remarks he made in an interview.

The court directed Mr. Senkumar to appear before the investigating officer in 10 days. If he were to be arrested, he should be released on bail on executing a bond of ₹50,000 with two solvent sureties for the like sum, the court ordered. The court observed that there was no need for custodial interrogation of the petitioner.

Lingayat Ministers to elicit opinion on religion status

'Separate religion tag will help get benefits of minorities'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Days after Bharatiya Janata Party Karnataka president and Lingayat leader B.S. Yeddyurappa vociferously opposed the demand to recognise Lingayat as a religion, a team of five Cabinet Ministers belonging to the community have decided to tour the State to gather the opinion of religious heads and other leaders on the contentious issue.

The team will comprise Minister for Higher Education Basavaraj Rayaraddi, Minister for Mines and Geology Vinay Kulkarni, Minister for Medical Education Sharankrishna Patil, Minister for Municipal Administration Eshwar B. Khandre, and Horticulture Minister S.S. Mallikarjun.

"Based on the responses, we will submit a memor-

andum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to recommend to the Centre that Lingayat be recognised as a separate religion," said Mr. Rayaraddi.

'Not official'

He clarified that it was "not an official move of the government." The five Ministers had taken the initiative to get the "much awaited and much delayed" religion status for their community.

Mr. Rayaraddi said by getting a separate religion tag, they would get the benefits of a minority community.

Lingayats, he said, were spread across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and other States.

"Historically, Lingayat was an independent religion founded by Basavanna in the 12th century and it had never been part of Hinduism. On the

contrary, it fought values based on the laws of Manu," he said.

Reacting to Mr. Yeddyurappa's statement that there was no difference between Veerashaiva (the old Shaiva faith) and Lingayat (as the followers of Basavanna call themselves) and that they are part of Hinduism, Mr. Rayaraddi said both were part of "an ancient culture" known as Hinduism but not the same religion.

"But both are not part of the Hindutva ideology, which is being propagated by the Sangh Parivar, especially the Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh, to which Mr. Yeddyurappa belongs," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, on June 15, promised to look into the demand for a separate religion status.

Maudany denied bail, PDP plans stir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has called for a Statewide hartal on July 26 to protest against Monday's decision by the Bengaluru NIA court denying bail to party chairman Abdul Nasir Maudany to attend his son's wedding in Thalassery on August 9.

Working chairman of the PDP Poonthura Siraj said that it would be a dawn-to-dusk hartal.

Maudany, arrested for his alleged role in the 2008 Bengaluru serial blasts case, was arrested from Mynagappally near Kollam in 2010 and has been lodged in the Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappan Agrahara. Earlier, he was granted bail to attend the wedding of his daughter.

On the edge



Rising high: Waves crash on the Valiathura pier in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. The dilapidated pier, which extends 214 metres into the sea, was closed many times in the recent past, due to safety concerns. ■ C. RATHEESH KUMAR

Case against IG: Kerala HC quashes vigilance court directive

Says complaint against officer should be considered afresh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday quashed a Muvattupuzha vigilance court directive to register a case against Inspector General of Police Manoj Abraham on a complaint accusing him of amassing wealth disproportionately to his known sources of income.

The court, while quashing the case, directed the vigilance court to consider afresh the complaint against Mr. Abraham.

Abraham's plea

The court passed the judgment while considering a petition filed by Mr. Abraham challenging the vigilance court order.

The vigilance court had passed the order on a peti-

tion filed by P.P. Chandrasekharan Nair of Pathanamthitta. He had alleged that Mr. Abraham had an unholy nexus with the quarry lobby and misused his position to stop action against illegal quarrying.

Foreign trips

The IPS officer had also constructed a 'mansion' in Thiruvananthapuram and conducted numerous foreign trips under the sponsorship of some businessmen, the complainant had alleged.

It was also alleged that Mr. Abraham had invested a substantial portion of his ill-gotten money in the St. Mary's Group, which was related to his wife.

Mr. Abraham pointed out in his petition that a quick

A.P. heist: 7 dacoits held, 4 kg gold seized

The accused are natives of Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Cracking the gold heist case, the Andhra Pradesh police arrested seven members of the 10-member dacoit gang, who struck at a gold workshop at Governorpet on July 11, and recovered 4,025 kg jewellery from them. The dacoits, who looted 5 kg, were arrested in Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

A revolver, two pistols, 17 rounds of bullets, three knives and five mobile phones were seized from them, said City Police Commissioner D. Gautam Sawang at a press conference here on Monday.

Mr. Sawang said two conspirators, Tanmai Mandal and Dileep of West Bengal, and gang members Suresh Ayyakkuttevar of Tamil Nadu, Dasarath Dagdu Daker alias Dattu, Khaja

Moinuddin Khan, Santosh Ratan Singh Thakur alias Santosh Nepal of Mumbai and Santosh Aditya Bansraj Singh of Uttar Pradesh had been arrested.

Insider's role

The dacoits hatched the plan to strike at workshops in Ra-

jamathevarpet and Vijayawada and they raided a jew-

ellery making unit in Rajamahendravaram on March.

Tanmai, who worked in the 'kharkhana' (workshop) for a few months, tipped Dileep of the gold work in the workshop.

Notorious criminals, wanted in several other cases, joined hands and con-

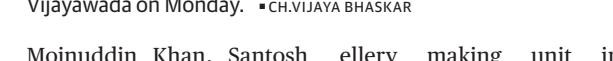
ducted a 'reccie' in February

and March. They met at the Gowliguda Bus Station in Hyderabad and came to the city four days before the theft.

"They checked into a hotel in Guntur and prepared the route plan to escape from the city after the dacoity," the Police Commissioner said.

The gang members fled to Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu through various modes of transport. When the police started chasing them, they moved to Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai, Thane, Varanasi, Gajapur, Bhalia and other places.

"The gang members even tried to escape to Sri Lanka from Tamil Nadu, but the police foiled their plans. When they planned to meet near Mumbai and share the booty, we arrested them," said Joint Commissioner of Police B.V. Ramana Kumar.



In the net: Police produce accused in the gold heist case in Vijayawada on Monday. ■ CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

IN BRIEF



Punjab focus on electric vehicles: Amarinder

CHANDIGARH
Punjab plans to shift to environment-friendly electric vehicles in a big way, with the new industrial policy to be significantly focused on the same, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Monday. Mahindra & Mahindra Managing Director Pawan Goenka suggested a scheme to bring in electric taxis to propagate green energy and generate employment in the State. PTI

Haryana varsity launches industry-linked course

CHANDIGARH
The Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University has launched industry-integrated graduation programme in automobile mechatronics and automotive manufacturing. The three-year course was on Monday announced by the varsity in partnership with Hero MotoCorp under the 'Earn While You Learn' scheme. PTI

30,000 liquor bottles destroyed in Patna

PATNA
The Patna district administration on Monday destroyed 30,000 liquor bottles and sachets of country-made brew. The destruction of the liquor bottles was carried out under provision of the new Excise Act, brought in by Nitish Kumar government to enforce total prohibition in the State since April 2016. PTI

NDRF personnel save two drowning girls

PATNA
National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel on Monday saved the lives of two girls drowning in Shiv Ganga pond at Deogarh in Jharkhand. The on duty NDRF personnel heard cries of help and successfully rescued two girls, a statement said. PTI

DM's remark on toilet raises a stink

Official asks villager to 'sell off his wife if he can't build a toilet'; later says he was quoted out of context

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

Angry with a villager's "pestering question" during a public meeting, a district magistrate in Bihar asked the person to "sell off his wife if he could not build a toilet for her." The young officer later said he was quoted "out of context after distorting the issue."

Aurangabad District Magistrate Kanwal Tanuj is the same official who in July 2016 had hit the headlines after he reinstated a Dalit widow cook at a government primary school within 12 hours of her dismissal. He also had a meal with the students after the woman cooked in the school.

On Sunday, Mr. Tanuj, a 2010-batch IAS officer, reached Jamhore village as part of a drive to promote



Aurangabad District Magistrate Kanwal Tanuj having a mid-day meal along with school students in Battura village.

"Haath utha ke bolo aisa kaun sa garib aadmi hai jo yeh kah de ki meri biwi ki izzat 12,000 rupee se kam hai... Aisa kaun sa garib aadmi hai jo yeh kah de ki 12,000 rupee de do aur meri biwi ki izzat le lo (raise your hand and tell which poor man will say 'my wife's dig-

It was appealing to the villagers to build toilets at their home as it protects the honour of their wives who have to go out in open fields for defecation twice a day.

nity is less than ₹12,000'?" Who is that poor man who will say give me ₹12,000 and take my wife's dignity?," the young DM asked the villagers.

Meanwhile, a voice heard in a video footage interrupted him twice saying he has no money to build a toilet.

The enraged DM first said,

"I would talk to you... I would talk to you", but a moment later, he was heard yelling at him, "Go and sell off your wife if you cannot build a toilet for her... Those who cannot build toilet should sell or auction their wives. If this is your mentality then go and sell off your wife."

The video clip of the incident triggered a controversy.

Mr. Tanuj said he was

quoted out of context by a news agency. "I think that man interrupting me was being prompted by someone to provoke me. All the villagers were clapping when I was jerking their conscience to build toilets in their homes under a central Government scheme, that man came from nowhere and started nagging me," the DM told *The Hindu* over the phone.

"My speech was misquoted and played selectively... It was a programme to shake the self-respect of the villagers and their self respect is associated with the women folk of their family... So my text was related in that context," he explained.

"How can I say that if you don't have toilets, go and sell off your wife? No one can talk like that," he added.

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 Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Gujarat, south Rajasthan, north Chhattisgarh, north Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, north Odisha, Saurashtra & Kutch, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, east Uttar Pradesh, northeast Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Konkan & Goa

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|-------------|---------|---------|------|---------------|---------|---------|------|
| Agartala | 30.6... | 27.4... | 25.0 | Kozhikode | 8... | 32.0... | 24.2 |
| Ahmedabad | 64.2... | 25.4... | 23.0 | Kurnool | — | 34.3... | 26.1 |
| Aizawl | 7... | 28.3... | 11.2 | Lucknow | 6.7... | 32.7... | 25.6 |
| Allahabad | 12.6... | 33.0... | 27.7 | Madurai | — | 41.6... | 27.4 |
| Bengaluru | — | 30.3... | 19.3 | Mangaluru | 2... | 30.8... | 24.0 |
| Bhopal | 3.2... | 28.5... | 23.0 | Mumbai | — | 30.6... | 26.6 |
| Bhubaneswar | 12.3... | 25.9... | 25.8 | Mysoor | — | 30.3... | 19.4 |
| Chandigarh | 7.1... | 34.5... | 26.7 | New Delhi | 14.6... | 33.4... | 26.5 |
| Chennai | — | 38.9... | 29.4 | Patna | — | 32.4... | 26.5 |
| Coimbatore | — | 32.8... | 23.4 | Port Blair | 1... | 32.4... | 25.8 |
| Dehradun | 13.5... | 33.2... | 24.4 | Puducherry | — | 38.4... | 27.3 |
| Gangtok | 21.8... | 19.2... | 18.2 | Pune | 6.1... | 27.6... | 22.1 |
| Goa | 14.1... | 31.0... | 24.5 | Raipur | 4.6... | 30.1... | 24.2 |
| Guwahati | — | 33.3... | 26.4 | Ranchi | 29.6... | 35.0... | 20.7 |
| Hubbli | — | 27.0... | 22.0 | Shillong | 14.3... | 21.0... | 15.9 |
| Hyderabad | — | 31.6... | 23.4 | Shimla | 7.1... | 22.3... | 17.1 |
| Imphal | 17.4... | 29.0... | 21.4 | Srinagar | — | 30.9... | 19.6 |
| Jaipur | 65... | 29.0... | 23.2 | Trivandrum | — | 32.2... | 25.0 |
| Kochi | 0.9... | 31.8... | 25.2 | Tiruchi | — | 39.8... | 28.4 |
| Kohima | — | 28.8... | 18.7 | Vijayawada | 33.2... | 35.5... | 25.2 |
| Kolkata | 73.9... | 27.5... | 25.0 | Visakhapatnam | — | 32.0... | 26.4 |

Particulate matter in the air you are breathing Yesterday

| CITIES | SO ₂ | NO _x | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|--------|--------|------|
| Ahmedabad | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bengaluru | 9... | 49... | 70... | — | 102... | ■ |
| Chennai | 6... | 15... | 39... | 176... | — | ■ |
| Delhi | 20... | 49... | 40... | 46... | 32... | ■ |
| Hyderabad | 42... | 22... | 11... | 43... | 86... | ■ |
| Kolkata | 18... | 43... | 29... | — | 49... | ■ |
| Lucknow | 5... | 26... | 51... | 109... | — | ■ |
| Mumbai | 7... | 20... | 58... | 36... | 72... | ■ |
| Pune | 13... | 27... | 77... | 40... | 56... | ■ |
| Vishakhapatnam | 24... | 11... | 65... | 79... | 123... | ■ |

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Durgapur, West Bengal recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 183 indicating a moderate level of pollution.

In contrast, Gurgaon, Haryana recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good

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

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

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

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

sportstar live Cricket Football Tennis Motorsport More Sports Columns Photos Videos Star Life Fantasy

THE BEST ONLINE SEAT FOR SPORTS FANS, JUST GOT EVEN BETTER.

Check out the sporty new look of sportstarlive.com with



Refreshed interface



Easy navigation



Exclusive extracts 'From the magazine'



Scoreboard & ranking widgets

sportstar live

Visit sportstarlive.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of The President of India, invites sealed tenders for the following works:

Tender Notice No. Y-SG-P-MYS-OT-2017-18-04 Dated: 15-07-2017

Name of work Approximate value of work

Provision of OFC, STM1 & PD-MUX in Kadur Rs. 2,21,74,913=90

Chikkamagaluru (45.125 Km.) section in Mysuru Division.

Tender Notice No. Y-SG-P-MYS-OT-2017-18-05 Dated: 15-07-2017

Name of work Approximate value of work

Provision of OFC, STM1 & PD-MUX in Shivamogga Town Rs. 4,07,40,987=

- Talguppa (97.28 Km.) section in Mysuru Division.

Last Date of submission of bids for the above tenders is 29-08-2017 upto 15.00 hrs.

For details of tender notice log on to www.reps.gov.in

Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Projects)

South Western Railway/Mysuru

PUB/108/AAY/PRB/SWR/2017-18

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

EAST COAST RAILWAY SIGNAL & TELECOM WORK

e-Tender Notice No. STCOMBBSeOTEI Manpur Dasapalai, Dated: 21.07.2017

Name of Work: EXECUTION OF SIGNALLING & TELECOM WORKS, SUPPLY OF CRITICAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING AT MAHPUR, NUAGAON & DASAPALAI STATION IN CONNECTION WITH NEW RAIL LINK BETWEEN KHURDA - BALANGIR SECTION IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 6,64,60,725/- EMD (₹): ₹ 4,82,340/- Cost of Tender Document (₹): ₹ 2,000/- Completion Period of the work: 3 years

Date and time of closing of tender: At 1400 hrs of 29.08.2017.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete details including e-tender documents are available at <http://www.reps.gov.in>.Complete information including e-tender documents of the above tender is available in website: www.reps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (PSR) Con/Bhubaneswar PR/70/CAUT-17-18

Shabdharth-1247-17-18 Director CPA

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY PROVISION OF COOKING

Tender Notice No. E-CR-CAO-COM-3-2017 Dated: 17-07-20

IN BRIEF



Traditional houseboats to make a comeback

ALAPPUZHA
Traditional houseboats, operated manually, are set to make a comeback in Kerala's Vembanad lake where scores of motorised houseboats ply. The new initiative, being launched by one of the operators in the sector, could contribute to efforts at reducing pollution levels in the waterbody, recognised as a Ramsar site by the U.N.

MP Assembly adjourned thrice

BHOPAL
The Madhya Pradesh Assembly was adjourned thrice on Monday as the Congress and the BJP leaders raised issues of Minister Narottam Mishra's disqualification and an alleged insult of a Dalit MLA by Congress MP Jyotiraditya Scindia. Congress MLA Sundarlal Tiwari sought to know how Mishra had submitted reply to a written query.

Punjab CM's mother passes away

CHANDIGARH
Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's mother 'Rajmata' Mohinder Kaur passed away on Monday evening after prolonged illness at her residence in Patiala. She was 96. A former Congress MP, she had been keeping unwell for sometime. She breathed her last at the family's Moti Mahal residence in Patiala at 7.24 p.m., as a result of multiple system failure. PTI

I-T dept. probing 30,000 cases of tax evasion

NEW DELHI
The Income Tax department is probing over 30,000 cases of alleged tax evasion wherein the returns were revised by assesses post demonetisation, CBDT chief Sushil Chandra said on Monday. These came to light when the I-T returns filed by individuals after November 8 last year were scrutinised against their earlier returns, he said. PTI

The rhythm of rain



Drums of heaven: Jaintia tribesmen perform a ritual during the age-old Behdienkhlam festival at Tuber village in Meghalaya on Monday. The post-sowing ritual is to seek blessings for a good harvest and disease-free life. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Chandrashekhar alleges custodial violence

HC concerned over 'serious allegations'; asks jail authorities to ensure that he is not tortured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday warned of "serious action" over alleged "torture" of Sukech Chandrashekhar, accused in the Election Commission bribery case, in Tihar Jail, saying any such incident will not be tolerated.

Status report

Justice Ashutosh Kumar issued notice to the AAP government and the D-G Prisoners of Tihar Jail and asked them to file a status report on the plea that alleged that Chandrashekhar was strip-

searched by jail officials while he was lodged in a high-risk ward.

In his plea through senior counsel Aman Lekhi, the accused alleged that he was being tortured by jail officials in connivance with Tamil Nadu Special Police, which is handling the security of Tihar Jail, because he was supporting the rival faction of the ruling AIADMK (Amma).

The court termed the allegations serious and asked the jail authorities to ensure that the accused was not tortured in custody. The court sought to know

from jail authorities why the accused was kept in a high-risk cell meant for dangerous criminals.

High-risk cell

"There has to be a reason why he was kept in a high-risk cell. We are concerned about the sexual attack on him. You (Tihar) need to explain why a person, who is being prosecuted for forgery and cheating, has been kept in high-risk ward?

"We need to know all the details. A mere status report denying the allegation will not work. Serious allegation has been raised of custodial

violence which cannot be tolerated at all," the court said and listed the matter for hearing on August 22.

The court also sought CCTV footage details to see where Chandrashekhar was allegedly assaulted.

"We even need to get details of the CCTV footage of the area where accused was allegedly confined and assaulted. If it is not there, we will take action against the person involved. Details should be there. In the meantime, the accused should not be tortured and nothing shall happen to him."

"We will take this issue seriously as custodial violence is against the law. If there are no records, we will take serious action. We will be compelled to believe that the person was subjected to physical assault," it said.

Recently the Delhi Police Crime Branch has filed an over 700-page charge sheet alleging that Chandrashekhar, who was arrested on April 16, had conspired with Dhinakaran to bribe the Election Commission (EC) officials to get the 'two leaves' symbol for the Sasikala-led AIADMK (Amma) faction.

Over 15,000 people relocated in Gujarat

State continues to be on high alert as the meteorological department has forecast more rains



Grim situation: A submerged bridge in north Gujarat on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CBI seeks NBW against Gurung

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA
The Madan Tamang murder case has come to haunt the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) leadership with the CBI on Monday approaching the Chief Judge of the City Sessions Court seeking non-bailable arrest warrants (NBW) against GJM president Binmal Gurung and 21 others.

During the day the Court of Chief Judge, City Sessions Court Kolkata, heard the Madan Tamang murder case where charges were being framed against the accused. Of the 54 accused in the case, four have died, while two others are absconding. Of the 48 remaining accused, 26 were present in court but 22 others, including Mr. Gurung, were not.

Pointing out that the charges in the case could not be framed unless all accused were present, CBI counsel Arun Bhagat urged the court to issue arrest warrants against Mr. Gurung and others.

9 charged in Bihar track bomb case

NIA silent on Kanpur derailment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a charge sheet against nine persons, including two Nepalese men, for planting a pressure cooker bomb on a railway track at Ghorasan in Bihar Police that he planted the explosives at the instance of his Nepalese handlers, who were working for the ISI.

Uma Shanker Patel and Mukesh Yadav for allegedly planting the bomb on the railway track at Ghorasan on October 1, 2016. The bomb was defused and Paswan told the Bihar Police that he planted the explosives at the instance of his Nepalese handlers, who were working for the ISI.

ISI hand
Paswan also said that the ISI was involved in the Kanpur train accident.

The U.P. police had then denied that any explosives were found on the track. The case was transferred to the NIA. "Investigation brought out that the accused Shamsul Hoda, a Nepalese citizen, along with Mohammad Shafi, a resident of Pakistan, were the main conspirators, along with Brij Kishore Giri, a Nepalese. Hoda entered into a conspiracy with Shafi and others, to carry out a series of terrorist acts in India," the charge sheet said.

In January, the Bihar Police arrested Moti Paswan, the charge sheet said.

Won't allow driverless cars: Gadkari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said driverless cars would not be allowed in India as it would lead to joblessness.

Instead, the government would focus on training drivers as adequate driving skills could provide employment to about 50 lakh people, the Road Transport Minister said.

"India suffers a huge shortage of 22 lakh drivers... Cab aggregators take advantage of these. We are not going to promote any technology that will render people jobless," Mr. Gadkari said.

On July 18, Mr. Guha Thakurta resigned from his position after the Board of Trustees of the Sameeksha Trust - Romila Thapar, Dipankar Gupta, Deepak Nayyar, Rajeev Bargava, Deepak

Restore credibility of EPW, urge academics

Letter against abrupt exit of editor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Protesting against the abrupt exit of the Editor of the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) Paranjay Guha Thakurta and reminding the trustees of the journal of their accountability to the larger public, 150 academics have urged the Sameeksha Trust to take immediate steps to restore the prestige and credibility of the journal.

By forcing the Editor's resignation without clarifying its stand on the substance of the articles ordered to be taken down, the Board has diminished the institution that it is mandated to nurture, the academics said in an open letter to the trustees.

Articles removed
On July 18, Mr. Guha Thakurta resigned from his position after the Board of Trustees of the Sameeksha Trust - Romila Thapar, Dipankar Gupta, Deepak Nayyar, Rajeev Bargava, Deepak

Parekh, D.N. Ghosh, Andre Beteille and Shyam Menon - asked him to take down two articles on Adani Power Limited with immediate effect.

'Well-wishers'

The letter stated: "As long-standing well-wishers and members of the intellectual community served by the EPW, we are appalled and dismayed by the recent events leading to the abrupt resignation of the Editor, Paranjay Guha Thakurta."

The signatures include Abhijit Bannerjee from MIT, Udupi Ramachandra Rao, former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, acclaimed space scientist acknowledged as the father of Indian satellite technology, is no more.

The celebrated cosmic ray scientist with an MIT scholarship and experience with early NASA projects in the 1960s is best remembered as the man who gave the country its first spacecraft Aryabhata from out of modest un-space-like industrial sheds of Peenya in Bengaluru.

U.R. Rao, genial genius of ISRO

He gave the country its first spacecraft

MADHUMATHI D.S.

BENGALURU

Udupi Ramachandra Rao, former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, acclaimed space scientist acknowledged as the father of Indian satellite technology, is no more.

The celebrated cosmic ray scientist with an MIT scholarship and experience with early NASA projects in the 1960s is best remembered as the man who gave the country its first spacecraft Aryabhata from out of modest un-space-like industrial sheds of Peenya in Bengaluru.

His demise at age 85 somewhat brings the curtain on the starry era of pioneering space troika of Vikram Sarabhai, Satish Dhawan and U.R. Rao.

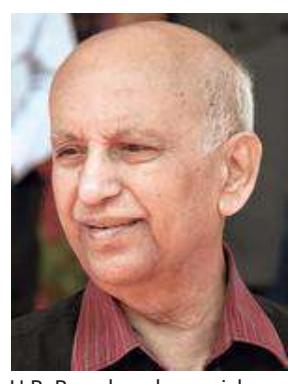
Regulars at Antariksh Bhavan, the headquarters of ISRO and the Department of Space, will miss the gentle genius. A workaholic, Dr. Rao was active until about two weeks back in his office at Antariksh Bhavan, recalled ISRO Publications and Public Relations Director Deviprasad Karnik.

Guided by Sarabhai

Dr. Rao's space journey blossomed under the tutelage of Vikram Sarabhai, his doctoral guide and later boss at ISRO: in 1972, Sarabhai tasked the young Rao - fresh from MIT and the only Indian then who had worked on NASA's Pioneer and Explorer satellite projects - with building an Indian satellite.

Then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had come down to see the assembled satellite - Aryabhata - which was launched on a Russian rocket in 1975. Indian satellites had started sprouting.

As the first director of what is now called ISRO Satellite Centre, Dr. Rao was responsible for 18 early satellites including the landmark Bhaskara, APPLE, the



U.R. Rao played a crucial role in the Chandrayaan and Mars missions.

Indian Remote sensing Satellites or IRS.

In 1984, Dr. Rao succeeded Satish Dhawan as ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space..

Shaped many a project

At ISRO, there has not been a planetary mission that has not been touched or tweaked by Dr. Rao. As the chairman of overseeing body ADCOS or the Advisory Committee on Space Sciences, he finalised, shaped, refined or designed the Chandrayaan-1 lunar mission of 2008; the Mars Orbiter Mission of 2013; and the upcoming Chandrayaan-2 set for 2018.

One of the current unfinished projects of the cosmic ray scientist is Aditya Li mission - India's upcoming solar observatory, so to say.

U.R. Rao was born on March 10, 1932, to Lakshminarayana Acharya and Krishnaveni Amma in Adamaru near Udupi. He studied in Udupi's Christian High School. He completed his M.Sc in Physics from Banaras Hindu University in 1953 and briefly taught in Ahmednagar and Mysore. But space science was beckoning and he enrolled for a PhD under none other than Vikram Sarabhai at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, and got the doctoral degree in 1960 from Gujarat University.

SC orders urgent medical test of child rape victim

The 10-year-old sought to end pregnancy after 26 weeks

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the medical examination of a 10-year-old rape victim at the Chandigarh PGIMER on a plea for termination of her 26-week-old pregnancy.

The law only allows abortion within 20 weeks of pregnancy.

The exception is when the pregnancy will be a danger to the health and life of the mother or if the foetus is found to be abnormal.

The courts usually de-

pend on the verdict of the medical board examining the victim.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar directed the medical board to examine whether the health of the victim would be "adversely affected if the pregnancy is allowed to continue".

The court entrusted the Chandigarh Legal Services Authority to make all the facilities required for the victim and a parent to have the medical examination done

on July 26. The court fixed the matter for hearing on July 28.

The PIL plea was filed after a Chandigarh court refused to let the girl terminate the pregnancy.

The petition has also sought appropriate guidelines and the setting up of a permanent medical board in each district for expedient termination of pregnancies in exceptional cases involving child rape survivors under the best possible medical facilities.

No. 15011/4/2016-Est.
Dated, 21st July, 2017
Applications are invited from eligible Members of the State Judicial Service and IPS Officers for filling up of one post of Assistant Director (Law) in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad - 500 051, on deputation basis for a period of one year.

2. Pay, qualifications required, other eligibility criteria for the post and application form are available in Academy website <http://www.svpnpa.gov.in/vacancies.aspx>. Duly filled in applications, alongwith supporting documents, should reach the Deputy Director (Estt), SVP National Police Academy, Hyderabad - 500 052 through proper channel nor later than six weeks (42 days) from the date of issue this circular.

Sd/- S. Praveen Kumar
Deputy Director (Estt.)

No. 15011/4/2016-Est.
Dated, 21st July, 2017
Applications are invited from retired judges/retired public prosecutors (cadre PPs appointed by Public Service Commission) for filling up of one post of Assistant Director (Law) in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad-500052, purely on outsourcing/contract basis for a period of one year or till the regular vacancy is filled up, whichever is earlier.
The maximum age of the applicant as on 01-01-2018 should not exceed 65 years. Remuneration for the retired judges/retired public prosecutors will be fixed as per their "Last pay drawn minus monthly pension before commutation plus DA for the residual amount at the prevalent rate." Complete details of Pay/qualifications required and the application form are available in Academy website <http://www.svpnpa.gov.in/vacancies.aspx>. Duly filled in applications, alongwith supporting documents including copies of educational qualification certificates and copy of Pension Payment Order issued by the government, should reach the Deputy Director (Estt), SVP National Police Academy, Hyderabad 500052, on or before 17.08.2017.

Sd/- S. Praveen Kumar
Deputy Director (Estt.)

AN-ND-NDE



Network challenges

As the telecom sector faces a price disruption, the regulator needs to bridge the data divide

There's a fresh twist in the tale for India's telecom sector, which is a success story with around a billion connections issued so far and about 350 million subscribers estimated to have smartphones. About ten months after beginning commercial operations and acquiring 125 million customers with attractive data and voice service offerings, Reliance Jio has announced a plan that could disrupt the telecom landscape by challenging existing price points. For a refundable security deposit of ₹1,500 and a tenth of that as monthly charges, it plans to give away free feature phones that will support 4G services and can be returned after three years. Incumbent service providers, now saddled with high debt that could turn into non-performing assets for lenders, would naturally be wary of this move – although analysts expect overall industry revenue to rebound from its declining trajectory. Similarly, Jio's proposition of connecting the phone to the television has affected the stock prices of direct-to-home service providers, though it may only offer three-four hours of such viewing per day. While rivals may need to rejig their service offerings to keep up, the disruptive potential of this development could be far more profound, especially in terms of bridging the country's digital divide.

India's Internet adoption rate remains among the lowest in the Asia-Pacific region with 422 million subscribers. A large chunk of them access the Net through smartphones. Although wireless data usage has shot up dramatically over the past year, 500-550 million Indians use feature phones that offer no data services. A Kleiner Perkins Internet Trends Report for 2017 notes that even though smartphone and data costs are declining in India, they are still too high for most. Cheaper phones as well as data are essential to bring online the next 100-200 million people. While market forces will come into play here, policymakers need to step up their game too. The government must rationalise the multiple statutory levies on telecom service providers, which have been flagged as major stress points for the sector. Moreover, if data is indeed the new currency, people must have greater control and negotiating power over how their own data is used by service providers or application developers. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, whose chairman R.S. Sharma has said network neutrality is critical in this digital era, must create an ecosystem where users are not stuck in walled garden environments offered by individual players. The government should consider the merits of China's cybersecurity law that requires tech firms to store all relevant data of local users within its sovereign borders. Apple has agreed to do this in China, but Indian iPhone users cannot even share logs pertaining to data speeds on local networks with the telecom regulator. A new strong new law should protect users' data and govern lopsided consent clauses set by service providers.

Winners all

How Indian cricket builds on the strengths of the women's team will be crucial

The buzz around women's cricket in India was never as heightened as it was during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup. It reached a crescendo when India met England in the final at Lord's in London. India lost, agonisingly by just nine runs. But not before it left its cricketers richer for the experience and for the fan base that expanded in the course of the tournament. Unlike in the past, the campaign was a show of the collective. Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami are towering figures and have carried the burden for more than a decade and a half. But under their shadows a space has been created for the likes of Smriti Mandhana, Punam Raut and Harmanpreet Kaur to grow. Raj topped the run charts with 409 runs and was only one short of the tournament leader, Tammy Beaumont of England. But Raut and Kaur, accounting for 381 and 359 runs, respectively, were no flashes in the pan. That these individual feats resulted in a wholesome uplift of the team's quality when most needed – against New Zealand in a must-win game and against Australia in the semi-final following two resounding losses to South Africa and Australia – illustrated the players' powers of recovery and sense of occasion. As Raj put it, "I have seen the changes the girls have made. I've seen the transition. It will be a team that other teams will be looking out for. That's what I'm proud of."

Here lies the cue to the future. India reached the final of the 2005 edition too. But the gains were mostly frittered away. Raj and Goswami are the record holders for highest runs and wickets in one-day internationals. At the same time, the two have played a paltry 10 Test matches each. There has been neither a well-thought-out calendar of bilateral series and tournaments nor a competitive domestic structure as in England or Australia. One need not look further than Kaur to realise the role the Australian Big Bash League played in her development. When Raj called for a women's Indian Premier League, it is this lacuna that she was pointing to. For all its ills, nothing has democratised Indian men's cricket the way the IPL has. There have never been this many accomplished cricketers drawn from diverse backgrounds across the length and breadth of the country. A similar league for women may still be far-fetched, but its potential to initiate a grassroots revolution cannot be understated. In the past month, what kept fans riveted was the imagery of Kaur's hitting, Raj's poise, Raut's determination and Goswami's perseverance, and in the increasingly visual times we live in, these are likely to stay etched. How Indian cricket harnesses this positive energy will be crucial. As the legendary Shantha Rangaswamy said in an interview to this newspaper, "There has to be a will. Without follow-up action, this interest will just evaporate into thin air."

Taxing times for the States

The withering of the States' fiscal independence under GST strikes at the core of federalism



SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

The new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, introduced by way of the 101st Constitutional Amendment, is based on a fundamental notion that uniformity in tax administration across the country is an idea worth cherishing. Indeed, the Union government has seemingly been so enthralled by its own enactment that it rolled out the tax on July 1 by organising an extraordinary midnight session of Parliament.

At its launch, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the GST as a "good and simple tax", and as a reform of far-reaching consequences that would help integrate India into a single market with a standard rate of taxation. That India could take such a step, he said, was an example in "cooperative federalism". Or, as some others have described it, the GST is a product of a pooled sovereignty, where the States have voluntarily waived some of the critical fiscal powers that they hitherto enjoyed under the Constitution.

Denting fiscal autonomy

The rhetoric here can sound forceful. But much of this begs the question. For instance, we don't know so far why uniformity in tax or the creation of a single market is necessarily a good thing for a country like India. We aren't told how this will make us happier, or how it will enhance the causes of liberty and equality, the bedrocks on which our Constitution is built. What we do know, however, is rather damaging: that the GST, far from being a case of "cooperative federalism", is really an incursion into the authority that India's States have been permitted under the Constitu-



tution. The resultant withering of the States' fiscal independence strikes at the core of the Constitution's basic structure which the Supreme Court has held is inviolable.

The Constitution, as originally adopted, establishes a clear, federal arrangement. It prescribes two levels of government, one at the Centre and the other at each of the States. Although matters of national importance, such as foreign affairs and the defence of India, are assigned to the Union, the responsibilities placed on the States are also particularly salient. For instance, the power to legislate on public order, public health and sanitation, agriculture, water and land are all exclusively vested in the State governments. This authority, as Chief Justice Maurice Gwyer observed in the context of the division made under the Government of India Act, 1935, which the Constitution largely assumed, is no slight matter.

"We must again refer to the fundamental proposition... that Indian Legislatures within their own sphere have plenary powers of legislation as large and of the same nature as those of Parliament itself," wrote Gwyer, in *Bhola Prasad v. R.* As the constitutional scholar H.M. Seervai has said, if Gwyer's statements were true in 1942,

when he wrote them, they are certainly true now, when we have State legislatures functioning under a system of Cabinet government.

Partners in taxation

In this constitutional scheme, where State governments are seen as equal partners, the founders thought it necessary to be very careful in allocating the powers of taxation. The partition made for this purpose was highly intricate, and they ensured that the taxes assigned to the Union and the States were mutually exclusive. For instance, while the Central government was given the power to tax income other than agricultural income, and levy indirect taxes in the form of customs and excise duties, State governments were given the sole power to tax the sale of goods and the entry of goods into a State.

This division of fiscal responsibility was made with a view to making States self-sufficient, and with a view to supplying to regional powers the flexibility needed to govern according to the respective needs of their people. The underlying idea here was that States should be uninhibited in tinkering taxation policies in whatever manner they desired so long as their laws

conformed to the other constitutional dictats.

When resisting changes suggested to the draft Constitution in the Constituent Assembly, which demanded that the rates of sales tax be subject to parliamentary law, B.R. Ambedkar put it this way: "It seems to me that if we permit the sales tax to be levied by the provinces, then the provinces must be free to adjust the rate of the sales tax to the changing situation of the province, and, therefore, a ceiling from the Centre would be a great handicap in the working of the sales tax."

Confusion over GST Council

The introduction of the GST, however, militates against this grand constitutional objective, against the aspiration set out in Article 1 of the Constitution, which declares India as a "Union of States". In endeavouring to pursue the goal of creating a single market through a homogenisation of the tax regime, the amendment grants to both the Union and the State governments concomitant powers over nearly all indirect taxes. To further effectuate this effort, the law also creates a GST Council, which comprises the Union Finance Minister, the Union Minister of State in charge of revenue or finance, and the minister in charge of finance from each State government. In acting as a nodal agency of sorts, this council will recommend a number of things, among others the list of taxes that will be subsumed by the GST, the goods and services that will be exempt from the levy of tax, the rates at which tax shall be levied, and so forth. The council's decisions will require a three-fourth majority, but the Central government's votes will have a weightage of one-third of the total votes cast, according, thereby, to the Union a virtual veto.

Now, there's some confusion over whether the GST Council's decisions are actually binding on the various State governments. The

newly introduced Article 279A, which creates the council, describes its decisions as "recommendations", but it also grants the council the power to establish a mechanism to adjudicate any dispute that might arise between any of its members in implementing the recommendations. If the council's recommendations are to be treated as purely advisory, it leaves us wondering why we need a dispute resolution mechanism at all.

Whichever way one wants to read the provisions of the new law, it's clear that the amendment makes core changes to the fiscal division that the Constitution's makers so meticulously devised. As a result, we could potentially have a scenario where one or the other of the States chooses to ignore the council's advice, by levying additional tax not only on the sale of goods but also on services and manufacturing, subjects over which the Union enjoyed exclusive domain.

On the other hand, if these recommendations are treated as obligatory, we are left with a situation where States would have altogether surrendered their fiscal autonomy to the Central government. In such a case, a State would be barred from fashioning its laws in a manner befitting the necessities of its people.

India's federal architecture is premised on a principle that promises the maintenance of an internal sovereignty, where States function as separate political entities within the domains allocated to them. But often the drive to maintain federalism, where the Constitution demands it, goes beyond any obligation to preserve the rights of the States. It goes to the root of the constraints against all arbitrary power, and, to that extent, this amendment is a grave onslaught on the Constitution's basic structure.

Suhirth Parthasarathy is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

And now for the memoirs

The good-hearted, the wise and the discreet side to Pranab Mukherjee



KARAN THAPAR

I lost touch with Pranab Mukherjee after he became President in 2012. After all, a journalist can't go knocking on the doors of Rashtrapati Bhavan and expect to be let in or pick up the phone and natter with its exalted occupant. But in the decades before that, I felt I had established a relationship which revealed some of his remarkable qualities. Today, on the day Mr. Mukherjee returns to private life, let me share some of my stories with you.

The interview

Pranab Mukherjee can get angry quickly but he's faster to forget and forgive. In an interview in 2004, when I began by repeatedly and forcefully questioning his decision, as Defence Minister, to promote to lieutenant general a man who had been rejected on three separate occasions by an army board and suggested this was politicisation of the army, he was

visibly riled. When I then questioned if he had done this because the officer concerned was related to a senior Congress leader, his face became incandescent. I could see his veins throbbing. Finally, when I said this contradicted the then Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh's pledge to "recapture the spirit of idealism" and his "commitment to decency (and) morality", Mr. Mukherjee's fury made me fear he might walk out.

He didn't. Instead we changed subjects and carried on talking for another 20 minutes. When the interview ended, I apologised for annoying him. His response took me completely aback.

He threw back his head and laughed. His eyes were twinkling and I could see this wasn't put on. "You were doing your job and I was doing mine. I've known you long enough Korron (as he fondly mispronounced my name) to realise your bark is worse than your bite." Then, with his hand on my shoulder, we walked down Jamia's long corridors to his waiting car. He wanted everyone to know he wasn't upset. More importantly, he didn't ask for any cuts.

Years earlier, when his unwarranted 'banishment' from high politics had ended and he was

Narasimha Rao's Foreign Minister, I met him for an off-the-record briefing prior to an interview with Benazir Bhutto, who was at the time Pakistan's Prime Minister. "You know what to ask, Korron," he said, brushing aside my reason for calling on him. "I would like you to take a message to her." In turn she gave me one for him and I thus got a second opportunity to meet him. This proved very useful because Salman Haider, then Foreign Secretary, refused to clear the interview for broadcast by Doordarshan. In those days that

was a huge stumbling block.

"Hmmm," Mr. Mukherjee responded when I told him how the interview was stuck.

"I don't want to embarrass the FS by overruling him. Why don't you give it to a private channel and I'll ensure there is no further obstacle." That's exactly what I did. The interview ended up with more attention than it would have got on Doordarshan.

The prank call

My last story is to do with 26/11 in 2008. Mr. Mukherjee was, once again, Foreign Minister. At the time someone had made a hoax call to the Pakistan President claiming to be Pranab Mukherjee and got through. This caller, it was said, had threatened Asif Zardari. The Pakistani raised the matter with Washington and, if I recall correctly, Condoleezza Rice, then Secretary of State, telephoned Mr. Mukherjee for clarification.

Now, on November 29, the day 26/11 ended, Asif Zardari gave me an interview. A few hours later, when I rang to thank him, he gave me a message for Mr. Mukherjee.

"Tell him not to threaten me in future. This is not the way a Foreign Minister should behave." It took me a while to contact Mr. Mukherjee and he heard me in silence.

When I finished he made me repeat the story a second time. "Thank you, Korron," he said, but I sensed the episode wasn't over.

Hours later Satyabrata Pal, then our High Commissioner to Pakistan, rang with a full explanation and details to prove that the call that had upset Mr. Zardari was a hoax. I was asked to pass this on to the Pakistan President. I can't say Mr. Zardari was convinced but he was prepared to consider the matter closed. "Forget it," he laughed. "There are more important things happening in the world. Give Mr. Mukherjee my regards and make sure you tell him I'm a good guy." When I did, Mr. Mukherjee simply giggled.

I've recounted these stories to make three points. Mr. Mukherjee is a good-hearted man who bears no ill-will. He's a wise politician who can help a journalist without embarrassing a civil servant who's erred. Finally, he can handle awkward situations with deft discretion and no one will ever know how he did it.

I shall miss you Mr. Mukherjee but, now that you have the time, I hope you'll write your memoirs.

Karan Thapar is a broadcast journalist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Two ideas of India

Peter Ronald deSouza has called attention to the real significance of the vice presidential contest by sensitising readers to "the richer model of politics, where ethics, pragmatism, and symbolism all combined, in their best moments, to give our politics a superior quality". It would be cynical to disregard this thin strand of wisdom that has held together this vision of India these 70 years against all odds.

Seen in this light, the choice of Gopalkrishna Gandhi will send a positive message that is urgently needed ("The Vice President's mien", July 24).

VASANTHA SURYA,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

must be opposed by one and all ("The Kannada flag, et cetera", July 22). While Kashmir continues to burn as separatists run riot, one wonders why the Congress is trying to create more trouble. Sadly, the media has not opposed the development on the scale it deserves. Hopefully better sense will prevail and policymakers and constitutional heads will block any such move.

JAI PRAKASH GUPTA,
Ambala Cantonment, Haryana

Falling prey

That schoolchildren are being targeted by drug peddlars is deeply disturbing ("Ground Zero" page - "Hyderabad's LSD blues", July 22). Rising affluence, with both parents working, creates other unintended sideeffects. While they are able to provide their children a good education, health care, and good living standards, they also create a

void among themselves due to their busy schedules. The modern nuclear family concept deepens this void.

For a country counting on youngsters for its future, the drug problem needs to be tackled with extreme urgency. The Hyderabad authorities need to be lauded for sending out a strong message.

VARAD SESHADRI,
Sunnyvale, California, U.S.

■ It is an open secret that the drug menace has spread its tentacles across the country. Today it is Hyderabad, tomorrow it could be some other metropolitan city. But such reports will come into the media spotlight only when there is some incident. The way the availability of drugs has transcended borders and can be sent to every nook and corner of the country speaks volumes about the extensive narcotics network and the corruption that prevails. Unless all State governments and the Central government work in

tandem, children are vulnerable in every State.

KSHIRASAGARA BALAJI RAO,
Hyderabad

At Lord's

Some stories take an unexpected turn at the end and Sunday's Women's World Cup cricket final at Lord's was one such. England won and India lost, but it could have easily been the other way round. It didn't because India panicked. After the India-England final, one can say with confidence that women's cricket has finally arrived. One must not forget that the Indian women, who do not have even a fraction of the facilities their English rivals can take for granted, were brave. In a country that seldom looks beyond the Virat Kohlis, Mithali Raj and her team have made quite a statement. They lost the final, but won much more than that ('Sport' - "India implodes in a thrilling finale at Lord's", July 24).

PADMINI RAGHAVENDRA,
Secunderabad

■ So near yet so far. The Women in Blue may not have lifted the trophy but definitely won millions of hearts. They have marked a new phase in women's cricket. It was not a one-sided match and they did give tough competition to the England team.

Unfortunately India wilted under pressure.
BATTULA PRAGATI,
Bengaluru

■ We failed to win on account of the most shocking display of cricket. With 7 wickets in hand and only 40 runs to get at less than a run per ball, we were well set for victory. The English women were in no position to prevent singles from well-placed ground strokes. Instead we went for lofted shots. The balls which claimed Harmanpreet Kaur and Veda Krishnamurthy could have been despatched for a couple of runs. To add to the misery, there were two senseless and suicidal run-outs. We did not avail of the generosity of the England team by way of

a dropped catch. Why Mithali Raj didn't instruct her players not to loft balls is a mystery.

What's brewing in Darjeeling

The Gorkhaland movement constitutes an opting out of West Bengal's domination and opting in to the democratic frameworks of India

The Darjeeling hills are in crisis. A resurgent Gorkhaland movement and subsequent state crackdown have infused life with violent uncertainty. Visitors to the 'queen of the hills' will be hard-pressed to find the idyllic tea plantations, mountain views, and quaint footpaths that characterise Darjeeling. Challenging these figments of the postcolonial imagination has always been another side to Darjeeling, now undeniably visible in the tear gas, burning vehicles, crippling strikes, tourist evacuations, foreboding police and military presence, and deaths at the hands of both state forces and political activists.

The current crisis was born of a perfect storm. In May, the West Bengal government announced Bengali as a compulsory language in schools across the State. By June, this triggered protests and claims of linguistic imperialism in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts (where the lingua franca is Nepali). Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee then decided to hold a Cabinet meeting in Darjeeling for the first time in over 40 years. Little effort was made to include representatives of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) or the three hill MLAs, eliciting protests. The ensuing clash with police left government property destroyed and many protesters injured. The Army was brought in to stanch unrest, but it escalated instead. Subsequent protests and crackdowns have led to further destruction and deaths.

With 'Jai Gorkha, Jai Gorkhaland' reverberating through the hills, Darjeeling has plunged again into the throes of agitation. Internet and cable television have been suspended for the last month. Strikes and security threats have devastated the local economy at the peak of tourist season. While fear is rampant, so is a shared sense of resistance and solidarity. Uncertainty notwithstanding, the crisis has made clear: Darjeeling is not what it's often made out to be.

The time has come to take a deeper look at the histories undergirding Darjeeling's latest crisis. This requires asking: What is Gorkhaland? And why is it deemed necessary by those who call the region home?

The crux of the movement

The Gorkhaland movement is a long-standing quest for a separate State of Gorkhaland within India for Nepali-speaking Indian citizens (often known as 'Gorkhas'). With roots dating back over a century, Gorkhaland is a classic subnationalist movement,



GETTY IMAGES

not unlike those that have produced other States, most recently Telangana, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. Beyond all else, Gorkhaland is a desire for the recognition, respect, and integration of Gorkha peoples in the Indian nation-state. Contra popular misunderstanding, the movement is neither separatist nor anti-nationalist; it is about inclusion and belonging in India. As Gorkha National Liberation Front founder Subash Ghisingh explained during the first Gorkhaland agitation in the 1980s, "We Nepali-Indians who have nothing to do with Nepal are constantly confused with 'Nepalis', that is, citizens of Nepal, a foreign country. But if there is Gorkhaland then our belonging to an Indian State, just like your identity, will be clear."

With those demands unrequited, a second Gorkhaland movement emerged in 2007 under the leadership of Bimal Gurung of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) and has flared intermittently. Heralded self-governance, recognition, and belonging in India, Gorkhaland remains the dream for Darjeeling citizens and many Nepali-speaking Indians across the country. It stands as a key means to redress the Gorkhas' enduring history of discrimination, misconception, and marginalisation in India. Herein lies the rub – and primary antagonism with West Bengal. By demanding Gorkhaland, the people of Darjeeling-Kalimpong are opting out of West Bengal's domination, and opting in to the democratic frameworks of India writ large.

Understanding Gorkhaland requires understanding its underlying histories. In many ways, the Gorkhas of Darjeeling have yet to taste the liberation of India's independence. The

local economy illustrates the continuities between the colonial and postcolonial eras: Gorkhas remain pegged to the lowest levels of employment, while outsiders own the tea industry, meaning its profits flow out of the hills. These economic constraints are exacerbated by the misunderstandings Gorkhas face when they seek education and work in places like Kolkata, Bengaluru, and New Delhi. Called 'foreigners', 'outsiders' and 'chinks', racial discrimination affects aspiring Gorkhas at every turn.

Reasons for resurgence

The political circumstances are equally frustrating. Since 1947, the Darjeeling-Kalimpong region has remained under the thumb of West Bengal, despite no substantive pre-partition evidence to support West Bengal's territorial claims to this region. Conciliatory set-ups like the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (1988–2012) and the GTA (2012–present) have failed to provide meaningful autonomy. These problems don't emanate solely from the hands of Bengalis, yet much of the marginalisation coalesces under the shadow of West Bengal's domination. Thus, when Ms. Banerjee and others stridently lay claim to Darjeeling, insisting that Bengal will never be divided, it strikes a nerve for the Gorkha peoples of India, evoking painful, yet ever-present, histories.

Instances like the attempted imposition of compulsory Bengali are not read as one-off events or mere slights in Darjeeling. They are seen as extensions of precisely the histories of domination that the Gorkhas are trying to escape. Ms. Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) has lately made significant inroads into the hills. West Bengal's recent creation of

the Kalimpong district (2017) and the State's doling out of Tribal Development Boards to ethnicities within the Gorkha conglomerate (Tamang, Sherpa, etc.) might appear well-intended gestures but in paving the way for the TMC's electoral gains, they appear to many as clear examples of 'divide and rule' – causing splits in the Gorkha electorate and undermining the already-limited authority of the GTA. Indeed, the GJM's instigation of the current agitation was at least partly in response to TMC encroachment. GTA elections were imminent, but the GJM's popularity was waning in the face of considerable rewards flowing from West Bengal's coffers. By summoning thousands to the streets, the GJM demonstrated its ability to evoke the emotional force of Gorkhaland. But then violence took hold, and the Gorkhaland movement once again became something else – something bigger than any one party.

The sudden resurgence of Gorkhaland has caught many by surprise. But today's turmoil mustn't obscure deeper histories. For Gorkhas, the troubling realities of colonial and present-day Darjeeling are eerily similar: linguistic chauvinism, ethnic and racial discrimination, resource extraction, unilateral territorial claims, the denial of self-governance, political suppression, and ultimately, an unwillingness to respect the 'native point of view'. This double bind of colonial nostalgia and neocolonial regional domination produces a sense of constant déjà vu, leading to the desperate feeling that genuine progress is out of reach. These unsettling truths demand some soul-searching.

A reconsideration is in order. Brisk air, Himalayan vistas, and beautiful tea plantations may be Darjeeling's enduring attributes, but these do not define the life experiences of those who call this embattled place home. Today's unrest makes this painfully clear – and calls out in intermittently poignant and frustrated voices for a new kind of engagement.

Rune Bernike (Copenhagen University), Sarah Besky (Brown University), Nilamber Chhetri (Maharashtra National Law University), Townsend Middleton (University of North Carolina), Roshan P. Rai (DLR Pernia), Swatihsiddha Sarkar (University of North Bengal), Debarati Sen (Kennesaw State University), Jayeeta Sharma (University of British Columbia), and Miriam Werner (Goettingen University) on behalf of The Darjeeling Studies Collective, a group of more than a dozen scholars with long-term research experience in the Darjeeling region

Bilateral catalyst

American cooperation in science, technology and innovation will help India's start-up ecosystem



DHANANJAY KUMAR TIWARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the U.S. is likely to deepen bilateral ties in multiple strategic areas. Among them, science and technology, a key driver for innovation and job creation in both countries, needs to take centre stage.

The shared values and interests of both the countries provide the essential underpinning for future collaboration. Besides, India has the advantage of enjoying bipartisan support in the U.S. in this regard. Over the years, knowledge and technology have become central to most of the bilateral agreements and strategic dialogues between the two countries. Bilateral agreements such as the Partnership to Advance Clean Energy and joint participation in mega projects in the areas of fundamental science such as the High Intensity Superconducting Proton Accelerator, the Thirty Meter Telescope, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory and the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Mission will have a far-reaching impact. Going forward, we can reap higher pay-offs if collaborative engagements are focused on sector-agnostic technologies, such as information technology, nanotechnology, and gene-editing technology. This will have positive impact on all spheres of collaboration such as education, economy and trade, defence and homeland security, energy and climate, health, agriculture and space.

The science landscape

To further strengthen the existing system of collaboration and help initiate new ones, we need to understand the science, technology and innovation (STI) landscape in the U.S. Learning the best practices on grant management and science administration from key American federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be a good starting point for India's science departments and research institutions.

Knowledge generated through science and technology needs to be capitalised in order to fuel the process of innovation and the creation of an entrepreneurial class which can help find solutions for the society at multiple levels. The American system provides one of the best models for this. The core components of our innovation ecosystem need to be supported by enabling systems and practices to transform technologies and inventions into products. Learning from U.S. institutions the practices of the innovation

value chain – ranging from ideation to prototyping and business-friendly incubation of the prototypes and the fostering of a proper legal and investor-friendly milieu – will make a visible difference on the ground. Second, an innovation does not necessarily have to be of the cutting-edge kind. The right solutions should be need-based and affordable.

Where required, we should model our institutional system to enable our scientists and engineers to pair up with business mentors to make the successful journey from the laboratory to the marketplace. The ongoing efforts to promote innovation and entrepreneurship through initiatives like the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund, the Stanford-India Biodesign Programme and the Khorana Technology Transfer programme should be strengthened to enhance the efficiency and productivity of our emerging innovation system. Integrating American technologies with products of Indian grassroots innovations will enhance the value of the latter and make them scalable, afford-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

able and marketable.

Deepening of ties

A database of U.S.-based inventors, their inventions and technologies relevant to India needs to be created. Further, the existing collaborative partnerships and student exchange programmes between research institutions and universities in both the countries need to be strengthened at various levels – including university-to-university, university-to-industry, industry-to-industry, and consortia-to-consortia levels. Joint incubators, to enable Indian start-ups to introduce products in the U.S. market and to facilitate U.S.-based start-ups to enter India with inflow of technologies, mentors and best business practices, should be set up.

Finally, the knowledge and skills of the successful Indian diaspora and Indophiles in the American administration should be leveraged to not only support the Indian start-up ecosystem but also to raise funds for programmes that will help India achieve inclusive development. India's pledge to manufacture locally, create more jobs and stay ahead of the competition can be redeemed to a great extent by marrying the Indian skills of low-cost innovation, for example in launching satellites and in space exploration, with the American prowess in science and technology.

The author, a Ph.D. from IIT Delhi, is currently a senior scientist in the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. Views are personal.

SINGLE FILE

Mankind's giant leaps

As the Outer Space Treaty completes 50 years, a quick recap of the Cold War rivalry

MARTAND JHA



aimed to get the countries to use space exploration for peaceful purposes.

The space race itself is an important segment in the history of mankind, one that intensified the Cold War rivalry as a fight for supremacy in space became a matter of pride for both the countries. The race resulted in the setting of new benchmarks by the superpowers in the late 1950s and 1960s. There were many 'firsts' that came up during this period, like the successful test of the first Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) in 1957, the launch of the first artificial Earth satellite (Sputnik 1) in 1957 and the first successful orbiting of earth by an animal (Laika, sent by Sputnik 2) in 1957. NASA, which became operational in 1958, was a partly a product of this rivalry.

Civilian, military aims

The space race left a wider impact in the field of technology, spawning pioneering efforts to launch artificial satellites and unmanned space probes of the Moon, Venus, and Mars, and human space flight in low Earth orbit and to the Moon.

The two countries' zeal to outperform each other quite benefitted to the progress of science in general, despite the work cultures of the space organisations being poles apart. However, the space programmes of both the superpowers were not just for civilian purposes; they were as much about military supremacy. The idea was to battle through display of power without having to fight an actual war. At this point, the United Nations had to step in, in order to ensure that outer space didn't become a battleground for these superpowers, and the Outer Space Treaty was born.

The space race didn't have an end date, and, in many ways, it still continues. But the 'space rivalry' definitely ended to an extent in 1975, with the Apollo-Soyuz Joint Test mission through which three U.S. astronauts and two Soviet cosmonauts became part of the first joint space flight.

The space race left a legacy in the field of space research worldwide. As the pioneers of space missions, both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. helped their allies build their own individual space missions by training their scientists and engineers; transferring technology to them; and allowing their researchers to come to their space laboratories to learn and improve on their existing knowledge and skills.



CONCEPTUAL

Texas sharpshooter fallacy

LOGIC

An informal fallacy where a conclusion is derived using similarities in observed data while ignoring any differences that might possibly disprove the conclusion. It is named after the joke of a man from Texas who randomly shoots holes on the wall of a barn and then proceeds to draw a target around it to claim his prowess at shooting. The fallacy is used to emphasise the point that the human mind is prone to find patterns, often where none exist, to establish cause and effect between two unrelated items. It also points to the importance of taking into account contrary evidence while arriving at conclusions.

MORE ON THE WEB

The many contributions of U.R. Rao
<http://bit.ly/urrao>

ABSTRACT

How capitalist is China today?

A paper that explores the nature of Chinese reforms since 1978

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

China began liberalising its socialist command economy in the late 1970s under the leadership of statesman Deng Xiaoping, soon after the death of its socialist leader Mao Zedong. Since then, the country has taken significant steps towards becoming a more market-oriented economy, which in turn has helped it achieve significant levels of economic growth and eradicate extreme poverty. So, where does China stand today when it comes to the scale of influence of its government over the economy?

"Is China Socialist?", a 2017 paper by professor Barry Naughton that appeared in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* tries to find an answer by measuring the influence of the Chinese government over the economy since liberalisation began in 1978. He builds his study on four broad variables: one, the

capacity of the Chinese government to steer the economy; two, its actual track record when it comes to steering the economy; three, the degree to which its policies enrich the poor; and four, its level of responsiveness to



the demands of the population. Mr. Naughton finds that the Chinese government transformed itself from the role of exerting overwhelming influence on the economy in the 1970s to playing a more passive role in the next two decades.

Today, however, it has both the capacity and the intention to steer the economy, and gets involved in wealth redistribution based on populist demands more than in the

1980s and 1990s. So, quite clearly, China of the present day is very different from places like Singapore, Hong Kong and New Zealand that are known for their high levels of economic freedom.

Instead, China looks to steer itself, perhaps quite prematurely, to look more like developed Western economies with a large regulatory and welfare state. This, of course, increases its risks of falling into the infamous middle-income trap. Even more interesting is China's turn towards populism despite the absence of mass democracy.

Markets over Mao, a 2014 book by Nicholas R. Lardy, and *How China Became Capitalist*, a 2012 book by Ronald Coase and Ning Wang, are two other resources to understand the dramatic changes that have happened in China since the country began its journey towards economic liberalisation.

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 25, 1967

India alert to face air attack from Pakistan

Mr. Swaran Singh, Defence Minister, said in the Lok Sabha today [July 24, New Delhi] that the possibility of a sudden air attack by Pakistan had been engaging the Government's attention. "Our experts and those who are in charge of tactical strategy are fully conscious of the implications of any such attack and have taken adequate measures to face the situation if it suddenly develops in that form", he said. The S.S.P. member, Mr. Madhu Limaye, had asked if India had learnt a lesson from the Arab-Israeli conflict and was prepared to meet any sudden air attack from Pakistan. Later again, in reply to Mr. Indrajit Gupta, the Defence Minister said in estimating Pakistan's air strength he had reckoned the 90 aircraft which found their way from West Germany through Iran into Pakistan.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 25, 1917

The binoculars wanted.

A press communiqué says: In response to the appeal of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the number of binoculars received at the Mathematical Instrument Office during the week ending the 21st July, 1917 and the total number received up to date are as follows: Binoculars received during the week ending the 21st July (1) On loan 3, up to date 162; (2) as gifts 2, total 50; (3) by purchase 1, total 60; grand total 272. Persons who are willing to give, lend or sell binoculars for use by officers in Mesopotamia are invited either to send them to the Officer-in-charge of Mathematical Instrument Office, 15 Wood Street, Calcutta, or to deliver them to M/s Lawrence and Mayo, Manufacturing Opticians, at their establishments in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Lucknow, Simla and Rangoon for despatch to the Mathematical Instrument Office.

DATA POINT

G.O.T. it illegally

The first episode of the latest 'Game of Thrones' season was illegally viewed about 90 million times in the first three days after release. Online searches in India for the episodes peaked in Pune city

■ ILLEGAL VIEWS, INCLUDING THROUGH TORRENTS

| City | Popularity index in the city* |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Pune | 8.53% |
| Chandigarh | 8.24% |
| Chennai | 7.00% |
| Gurgaon | 6.02% |
| Bengaluru | |

Opposition seeks scrutiny of Banking Regulation Bill

Finance Minister says the issues will be dealt with when the Bill, which seeks to authorise the RBI to resolve the problem of stressed assets, comes up for a discussion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley introduced the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017, in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The Bill seeks to authorise the RBI to resolve the problem of stressed assets, even as the Opposition demanded that it be sent to a standing committee for scrutiny.

The Bill seeks to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance promulgated in May. It allows the RBI to open an insolvency resolution process in respect of specific stressed assets. The RBI will also be empowered to issue directives for resolution and appoint authorities or committees to advise the banking companies on stressed asset resolution.

Desperate step

Before that, Trinamool Congress member Saugata Roy said he opposed the ordinance itself and called it a "desperate step by a desper-



Making a point: Members stage a protest in the Lok Sabha on Monday. ■ PTI/TV GRAB

IN PARLIAMENT

ate government". Non-performing assets of banks have risen to over ₹9 lakh crore, and now the RBI was empowered to refer the cases to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board, he said.

He wanted the Bill re-

ferred to a standing committee.

Speaker Sumitra Mahajan asked Mr. Jaitley if he wanted to respond to Mr. Roy's remarks. The Finance Minister said the issues would be dealt with when the Bill came up for a discussion.

Mr. Roy said the Bill re-

Distortion of MPs' remarks is 'breach of privilege': Kurien

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman P.J. Kurien suggested on Monday that distortion and reporting of expunged remarks of a Samajwadi Party MP by certain media houses be referred to the Privileges Committee.

He said that he had last week asked the media not to report anything expunged by the Chair from the records. And if the remarks of any member were distorted, it "amounts to breach of privilege" of the MP.

C We welcome criticism, but not in a manner of distorting views ...

K.T.S. TULSI
Rajya Sabha member

He made the remarks after K.T.S. Tulsi (nominated) said that 50 lawmakers from 12 parties had signed and given a notice under Rule 188 for breach of privilege by certain media houses for twisting and distorting the remarks by Naresh Agarwal (SP).

"We welcome criticism,

but not in a manner of distorting views and presenting them in a fashion tantamount to defaming" the MP, he said. "The matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee."

Last week, Mr. Agarwal had made certain controversial comments which the Chair expunged from records.

Mr. Kurien said that if the remarks had been distorted and if Mr. Tulsi's notice had been signed by 50 MPs, the matter "will be referred to the committee."

Mr. Agarwal said that if the

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Rajya Sabha on Monday passed two Bills on jurisdiction and settlement of maritime claims and the Footwear Design and Development Institute. However, the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2017, could not be taken up.

The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims), Bill, 2017, passed by the Lok Sabha in March, seeks to consolidate the laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction, legal proceedings in connection with vessels, their arrest, detention, sale and other related mat-

ters. While earlier only the High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras could take up maritime cases, the Bill extends the power to the High Courts of Karnataka, Kerala, Hyderabad, Orissa and Gujarat, besides any other High Courts as notified by the Centre.

Current scenario

Moving the Bill, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping Mansukh L. Mandaviya said the old maritime admiralty laws in India needed to be changed in accordance with the current global scenario. He said the Bill was aimed at

bringing in clarity to the law.

The Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill, 2017, as earlier passed by the Lok Sabha, is to establish it as an institution of national importance. Although all members supported the Bill, some said recent developments had an adverse impact on leather industry. Referring to the recent incidents involving "cow vigilantes," Congress member P.L. Punia sought protection to those engaged in the industry.

Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav and BSP's Veer Singh raised the issue of Agra-based traders saying

they were facing severe supply shortage.

Responding to Mr. Yadav's remarks, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman said flaws of the past were being corrected now.

She said earlier, leather was being supplied from unregulated, unlicensed and illegal sources, which should not have happened.

The government was just trying to regulate the supplies.

Ms. Sitharaman informed the House that the programme currently has 12 campuses, of which seven units are already functional.

Good public support for GST, demonetisation: PM



Narendra Modi

people's confidence and unprecedented support in historic decisions like demonetisation and GST. People want honesty and the country is moving towards honesty and the people have faith in this government's intentions," Mr. Modi told the MPs, according to an official release by the BJP.

"The 125 crore people of the country know that soft decisions in economic policies aimed at winning elections will not do the country any good," he is reported to have said.

Somnath blames Karat for a lost chance

STAFF REPORTER

KOLKATA

It was the objection of former Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) general secretary Prakash Karat that scuttled his chance of becoming the President, former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee has said.

Mr. Chatterjee, who made the remark in a recent interview to a Bengali newspaper, confirmed this to *The Hindu* on Monday.

"It was in 2007, when I was the Lok Sabha Speaker, Sharad Yadav [Janata Dal-United] met me. They

wanted me to contest the Presidential elections. I came to know that he was sent to me by the Congress leadership," Mr. Chatterjee had said in the interview to *Ajkal*. "But Mr. Karat turned down the proposal. Were it not for his objection, I would have become President then as the BJP had decided not to put up any candidate," Mr. Chatterjee told the Bengali daily.

After a few days Mr. Karat came to meet him, Mr. Chatterjee said. He said the CPI (M) did not propose to put up any candidate for the presidential polls.

INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

(Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India)

Head Office: A-13, Sector-1, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

Tender no. I/WAI/NW-5/63/2017 Dated : 25/7/2017

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

I/WAI invites tender in 2 cover system from experienced agencies of India and abroad for preparation of detailed engineering report (DER) including detailed engineering design & drawing of bridges for the existing bridges which needs modification/re-construction on National Waterway-5 in Odisha. Cost of tender document is Rs. 5000/-, EMD for the work is Rs. 6.00 lakhs. Bid download starts date: 28.07.17 at 1400 hrs (IST). Last date for submission of bids: 24.08.17 upto 1500 hrs (IST). For tender document & detailed eligibility criteria can be downloaded from I/WAI website: www.iwai.nic.in & portal: http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Member (Traffic)

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

CENTRAL PROCUREMENT ORGANISATION (MKTG.)

"A" Installation, Sewree-Fort Road, Sewree (East), Mumbai - 400 015.

TENDER NOTICE

We have floated the following e-tenders:

| Sr. No. | CRFQ No. (E-Tender) | Item Description | Pre-Bid Meeting Date/Time | Due Date /Time | Contact Details |
|---------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | 1000285405 | Supply of 2400 Nos of Tanks for Retail Outlets | 31/07/2017 1500 hrs. IST | 16/08/2017 1500 hrs. IST | 022- 24176395 24176404 |
| 2. | 1000284634 | Procurement of Pre-Fabricated Portable Cabins for Retail outlets | 01/08/2017 1430 hrs. IST | 17.08.2017 1500 hrs. IST | 022- 24176209 24176404 |
| 3. | 1000284470 | Supply of Automatic Tank Gauging system for Retail Outlets | 01/08/2017 1100 hrs. IST | 17.08.2017 1500 hrs. IST | 022- 24176209 24176404 |

For tender details and submission of bids, please access <https://bpclproc.in>. The tender details are also available on <http://bharatpetroleum.com/Tenders/View-Tenders.aspx> under Department CPO (Mktg.). Procurement and <http://eprocure.gov.in>. All further updates, amendments, corrigendum, extension of due date etc., if any, will be published only on <https://bpclproc.in>.



Energising Lives; Energising Business

Centre examining NEET question papers: Nadda

MPs protest against issue of different question papers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said in the Rajya Sabha on Monday that the Centre was examining if the Tamil question paper of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) was different from the English paper.



J.P. Nadda

But this year, those attempting NEET in Bengali or Tamil got question papers that were entirely different, he said adding that 40,000 of the 56,000 students who wrote the exam in either of the languages had "disastrous" results.

A federal issue?

"NEET is not a West Bengal issue. It is a federal issue," he said.

He was joined by AIADMK members who demanded scrapping the applicability of NEET to Tamil Nadu. A. Navaneethakrishnan, MP, said a uniform NEET syllabus should be introduced. Mr. Nadda said the issue was under examination of the government.

Netanyahu's remarks raised in Upper House

New Delhi
The reported remarks of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Prime Minister Narendra Modi skipping Palestine was raised by the Congress in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. Anand Sharma, who gave notice seeking suspension of business for the discussion,

said an audio clip released by an Israeli newspaper revealed Mr. Netanyahu telling a few European leaders in Budapest that Mr. Modi told him he needed water for his people, which he could not get from Ramallah. PTI

Restore tarmac access to Lalu, Rabri: RJD MP

NEW DELHI

The withdrawal of VIP access given to RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his wife, Rabri Devi, at the Patna airport is "unfortunate and condemnable", a party MP said in the Lok Sabha on Monday. Raising the matter during Zero Hour, Jaiprakash Narayan said considering the health condition of Mr. Prasad, the tarmac access pass of Mr. Prasad and Ms. Devi should be restored immediately. Last week, the Union Civil Aviation Ministry revoked the permission granted to the two former Chief Ministers. PTI

Sena MP wants 'befitting reply' to Pakistan

NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena MP Chandrakant Khaire on Monday said in the Lok Sabha that India should give a "befitting reply" to Pakistan for terror attacks such as the recent one on Amarnath pilgrims in Kashmir. Raising the issue, he said the killing of eight pilgrims in the July 10 terror attack in Anantnag exposed a "security failure". "There are terror camps in Pakistan from where attacks are launched." PTI

Netanyahu's remarks raised in Upper House

New Delhi
The reported remarks of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Prime Minister Narendra Modi skipping Palestine was raised by the Congress in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. Anand Sharma, who gave notice seeking suspension of business for the discussion, said an audio clip released by an Israeli newspaper revealed Mr. Netanyahu telling a few European leaders in Budapest that Mr. Modi told him he needed water for his people, which he could not get from Ramallah. PTI

Privacy no excuse for tax non-compliance: Jaitley

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Monday exhorted tax officials to expand the tax base in a non-intrusive manner while keeping in mind that privacy could not become an

excuse for tax non-compliance.

The Minister was speaking at a function commemorating Income-Tax Day.

"The Finance Minister exhorted the officers of the Income-Tax Department (ITD)

to be prompt in redressing the grievances of the tax payers, expand the tax base in a non-intrusive manner even as they strive to achieve the revenue generation targets," an official release said.

"He said that gradually,

the mindset of the people is changing as they want no one should be exempt from tax," the press release added.

"He said that privacy cannot be made an excuse for non-compliance."

Young World Club.com

from THE HINDU GROUP

CURIOPEDIA

LET THE WORLD KNOW
HOW CURIOUS
YOUR CHILD IS

Why is Mercury cooler than Venus even though it is closer to the Sun?

R. Tanisha, Chennai

That's a great question, Tanisha! The answer to it lies in the fact that Venus has a very dense atmosphere mainly made of carbon dioxide – the gas that we breathe out. This carbon dioxide traps most of the heat from the Sun. The result is a 'greenhouse effect' that causes the planet's temperature to soar to around 462°C, hot enough to melt lead! This does not happen on Mercury because it has a thin atmosphere with very little carbon dioxide. All said and done, the best way to look at Venus is from far away – it would make a terrible vacation spot!

Why do cats have whiskers?

Tabassum Ainal, Mangalda

A cat's whiskers, or 'vibrissae', aren't just ordinary fur or hair. They help the cat see in the dark and steer clear of danger. At the root of each whisker is a follicle loaded with nerves. By brushing its whiskers against an object, the cat can detect the precise



Chinese watchdog lens on Politburo member

BEIJING
The Chinese Communist Party's anti-graft watchdog has launched a probe into Politburo member Sun Zhengcai, the party boss in Chongqing who was once seen as a contender for a top leadership post, ahead of a major political meet. AFP

Sri Lanka dengue toll nears 300
COLOMBO
Sri Lanka announced on Monday it was intensifying its war on dengue fever, with schools to shut across the island for four days starting Friday to help curb the unprecedented outbreak of the mosquito-borne virus that has claimed nearly 300 lives. Hospitals are filled beyond capacity, doctors warned. AFP

Colombia's FARC to launch political party
BOGOTA
Colombia's leftist FARC rebels announced Monday they will launch a political party on September 1, a big step as the group transitions into civilian life as part of a historic peace agreement. "We will launch the party on September 1 in the Plaza de Bolívar, Bogota," guerrilla commander Julian Gallo said. AFP

Israel defends Jerusalem security measures
UNITED NATIONS
Israel is working to calm the situation in Jerusalem following a flare-up of violence, but it will do whatever is necessary to maintain security at a holy site, Israel's ambassador to the UN said on Monday ahead of a Security Council meeting to discuss ways to de-escalate tensions. AFP

Kushner details contacts with Russians, denies collusion

President Donald Trump's son-in-law says all of his actions were proper

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Jared Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law and a senior White House adviser, detailed four meetings he held last year with Russian officials in a statement on Monday in which he also said he "did not collude" with Moscow during the 2016 U.S. election campaign.

Mr. Kushner, who met behind closed doors with Senate Intelligence Committee staff, issued a written statement before that session that gave the fullest account to date of his contacts with Russian officials during the campaign and the presidential transition.

Mr. Kushner, like Mr. Trump a businessman, portrayed himself as someone who was new to politics when he became a top adviser to his father-in-law's campaign and was often so frantic fielding phone calls and e-mails that his recollections of some meetings was somewhat hazy.



Testing times: White House senior adviser Jared Kushner arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday. ■ AP

"I did not collude, nor know of anyone else in the campaign who colluded, with any foreign government," he said. "I had no improper contacts. I have not relied on Russian funds to finance my business activities in the private sector."

The Senate Intelligence Committee is one of several congressional panels investigating the Russia matter, along with a federal criminal probe led by special counsel

Robert Mueller. Speaking at the White House after the meeting, Mr. Kushner said all of his actions were proper and occurred within a "very unique campaign".

Unfair to voters
Mr. Kushner said Mr. Trump prevailed over his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in November 2016 because he ran a "smarter campaign" and that to suggest other-

wise "ridicules those who voted for him".

The Republican President, who has called the Russia probes politically motivated, lashed out at the investigations in Twitter messages on Monday. Mr. Trump has been dogged by allegations that his campaign aides worked with Russia, which U.S. intelligence agencies have accused of interfering in the election.

Moscow has denied any meddling, and Mr. Trump says his campaign did not collude with Moscow.

In his written statement, Mr. Kushner said he first met Russian Ambassador Sergei Kislyak in Washington in April 2016 and shook hands. He said he did not recall phone calls with Mr. Kislyak between April and November 2016, as reported by Reuters in May, had found no evidence of the calls in phone records and was sceptical they took place.

Mr. Kushner is also scheduled to address the House intelligence panel on Tuesday.

Maldives Oppn. says govt. locked down Parliament

President trying to stop vote on Speaker's impeachment

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COLOMBO

The Maldivian Opposition said that the military locked down Parliament on Monday on the orders of the country's President in a bid to prevent lawmakers from taking part in a vote to impeach the parliamentary Speaker.

The main Opposition Maldivian Democratic Party said that on the orders of President Yameen Abdul Gayoom, the gates of the Parliament were padlocked by members of the armed forces on Monday morning and lawmakers "were forcibly prevented from entering the parliamentary compound".

In a statement, the Opposition party called Mr. Yameen's action "desperate, illegal and unconstitutional". There was no immediate comment from the government. The government spokesmen could not be reached by telephone.

A no-confidence motion against Speaker Abdulla Maseeh Mohamed was scheduled to be taken up on



Monday. The Opposition says the motion has gained the support of 45 lawmakers in the 85-member house.

Lawmakers disbarred

However, an uncertainty arose when the election commission announced last week that the four members who supported the motion had lost their seats because they left the ruling party.

The motion was considered a severe blow to Mr. Yameen, whose control over Parliament was threatened by a new understanding between the Maldives'

former strongman and its first democratically elected president, Mohamed Nasheed. The Maldivian Democratic Party routed Mr. Yameen's party in local council elections earlier this year.

A similar Opposition bid to oust the Speaker was thwarted in March, when the government defeated it by 48 votes, with none opposing. At the time, Opposition lawmakers were either evicted or walked out from the vote, following a dispute over problems with the electronic voting system.

The coalition's plan to wrest Parliamentary majority was aimed at reforming the judiciary, elections commission and other bodies perceived as being partial toward Mr. Yameen. In March, Mr. Nasheed and former strongman Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and two other parties formed an alliance. Mr. Maumoon runs a rival faction within the Progressive Party of Maldives, which is led by the current President, his half-brother.

Polish President blocks judiciary reforms after days of protests

Andrzej Duda's unexpected veto takes ruling party, which is accused by critics of pushing the country towards authoritarian rule, by surprise

REUTERS
WARSAW

Polish President Andrzej Duda said on Monday that he would veto two of three bills passed by Parliament in a judicial reform that has triggered nationwide street protests and raised EU and U.S. concerns about a politicisation of the courts.

Mr. Duda is an ally of the ruling right-wing, eurosceptic Law and Justice Party (PiS) and, although he had

threatened to water down one of the bills, his veto of a second bill was a surprise. "I have decided that I will send back to the Sejm [lower house of Parliament] – which means I will veto – the bill on the Supreme Court, as well as the one on the National Council of the Judiciary," Mr. Duda said.

The move quickly found favour with foreign investors, boosting the Polish currency, the zloty, around

0.7% against the euro.

On Saturday, the upper house had given final approval to a bill that would remove all current Supreme Court judges immediately except those hand-picked by the Justice Minister.

Overhauling judiciary
Parliament had earlier passed a bill giving it the right to name most of the members of the National Council of the Judiciary,

which would nominate future candidates for the President to appoint to the Supreme Court.

"I'm absolutely a supporter of this reform, but a wise reform," Mr. Duda said in a brief live statement. "As President, I feel deep inside my soul that this reform in this form will not increase the sense of security and justice."

The overhaul of the judiciary, coupled with a drive

by PiS to expand its powers in other areas, including control of the media, has provoked a crisis in relations with the European Union and sparked one of the biggest political conflicts since Poland overthrew communism in 1989.

For many days, tens of thousands of protesters have been gathering in cities, including Warsaw, Krakow and Poznan, for candle-lit vigils, demanding that Mr. Duda

veto the reforms. The Opposition and most legal experts say the changes violate the Polish constitution.

Needed reforms

But the government has rebutted accusations that it is heading towards authoritarian rule. The PiS says the changes are needed to ensure courts serve all Poles, not just the "elites".

PiS legislator Jacek Sasin said he was surprised by Mr. Duda's move. "I'm afraid the President's decision may mean that we will have to wait much longer for the reform, a real reform of the Polish judiciary, unfortunately," he told the state broadcaster TVP Info.

Duda's move. "I'm afraid the President's decision may mean that we will have to wait much longer for the reform, a real reform of the Polish judiciary, unfortunately," he told the state broadcaster TVP Info.

PiS leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski declined to answer reporters' questions as he headed into a party leadership meeting that was summoned to discuss the unexpected veto.

+ 51 killed in Kabul, Lahore suicide bombings

At least 26 dead in Taliban attack on a bus carrying government employees in Afghanistan capital



Lives cut short: Footwear of victims at the site of a car bomb attack in Kabul on Monday. Since the beginning of the year, the Taliban have ramped up their offensive across the country. ■ AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

At least 26 people were killed and 41 wounded Monday after a Taliban-claimed car bomb struck a bus carrying government employees through a Shia neighbourhood in Kabul, raising fears of sectarian violence in the Afghan capital.

The assault came as a presidential spokesman said the Taliban also killed at least 35 civilians in an attack on a hospital in central Ghor province over the weekend.

The deadly attacks underscore spiralling insecurity in Afghanistan as the resurgent Taliban ramp up their offensive across the country, while security forces struggle to contain them.

In Monday's blast, the bus was carrying employees of the Ministry of Mines, passing from western Kabul to the downtown Ministry during rush hour, Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish told AFP.

It was struck by the car bomb as it passed through a busy area of the capital that is home to many Shia Hazaras, a persecuted ethnic minority.

An AFP photographer at the scene saw multiple bodies and wounded people in

the street, surrounded by shattered glass as security forces cordoned off the area.

The bus's charred remains were left smoking in the middle of the road as the wounded were rushed to hospitals in ambulances as well as private cars and taxis.

Huge explosion
"It was a huge explosion, my house nearly collapsed," a neighbourhood resident who gave his name as Mostafa told AFP, adding that the street was "filled with human flesh and blood".

"It was horrible," said shopkeeper Momin. "It is a crowded area – many of my friends and other shopkeepers are either killed or wounded."

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast, which came just before 7 a.m. The jihadist group rarely claims attacks with high civilian casualties, but does frequently target government employees.

Monday's attack in Kabul came as the Hazara community had planned to hold a demonstration in the same neighbourhood to mark the one-year anniversary of twin bombings by Islamic State that killed 84 people.

specifying if they were patients or staff. "This is a cruel crime against humanity," Mr. Murtaza said.

He did not elaborate, and officials say phone lines are down in Tawara district, captured by the militants over the weekend. The Taliban have denied the claim and the reports that they torched the hospital, though a spokesman said parts of the building were damaged in fighting. Ghor is a mountainous province that shares border with the Taliban-infested provinces of Helmand and Farah.

Spring offensive
Afghan forces control 59.7% of the country, according to a U.S. watchdog's report issued in May after the winter lull in fighting, up slightly from the previous quarter. But the insurgents have ramped up their offensive across the country since launching their so-called "spring offensive" earlier this year.

Monday's attack in Kabul came as the Hazara community had planned to hold a demonstration in the same neighbourhood to mark the one-year anniversary of twin bombings by Islamic State that killed 84 people.

Policemen targeted by Pakistani Taliban

REUTERS
LAHORE

A suicide bomber killed at least 25 people, many of them police, in Lahore on Monday, officials said, an attack which shattered a period of relative calm in Pakistan's second-largest city.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack which wrought carnage near the Lahore Technology Park in the centre of the city. Police deployed to clear street vendors from the area had been targeted, a police official said.

"We suspect that he [the suicide bomber] came on a motorcycle and he rammed it into a police checkpoint," Lahore police operations chief Haider Ashraf told Reuters.

Taliban responsible
Rescue workers shifted the wounded to hospital and police officers cordoned off the bomb site as Army troops also arrived at the scene. "The death toll we have now is 25 dead and 52 are wounded," said Jam Sajid Hussain, spokesman for the Rescue 1122 service.

A wounded man sitting on the roadside was shown crying in pain on television

amidst cars and motorcycles mangled by the blast.

The bombing was claimed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban, also known as the Pakistani Taliban, in a message sent to the media by spokesman Muhammad Khurassani. The Pakistani Taliban are loosely allied with Afghanistan's Taliban insurgents but focus their attacks on the Pakistani government.

Bomb blasts by militants are common in Pakistan, especially in tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, but attacks in Lahore have become less frequent in recent years. Haider Ashraf, deputy inspector general of Punjab police, said the blast was a suicide attack and "police were the target". Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said the majority of those killed and wounded were police and warned the death toll could rise.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned the blast and directed medical efforts for those injured.

In early April, a suicide attack on an Army census team that killed at least six people and wounded 18 in Lahore was also claimed by the Pakistani Taliban.

Sitting ducks: A policeman collects evidence at the site of a suicide blast in Lahore on Monday. ■ REUTERS

Policeman who saved Jaffna HC judge dies

Two suspects held, police say hunt on for mastermind

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly trying to assassinate Jaffna High Court judge M. Ilancheliyan in a shooting incident on Saturday, according to the Sri Lankan police.

"Several teams have been deployed to arrest the main suspect," police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara told *The Hindu* on Monday. The attack did not appear pre-planned, he had earlier told local media.

Police officer Sarath Premachandra – a 57-year-old Sinhalese – died on Sunday after succumbing to bullet injuries he suffered in the effort to save Justice Ilancheliyan.

The officer had been part of the Tamil judge's security detail for many years, media reports said. Following his death, a video of Justice Ilancheliyan visiting Premachandra's wife went viral on social media, with several users sharing the clip of the judge bowing before her and breaking down.

High-profile cases

Justice Ilancheliyan is a prominent judge who has presided over several high-profile cases, including the rape and murder of a schoolgirl in 2015, off Jaffna peninsula.

Last week, the Criminal Investigations Department arrested senior DIG Lalith Jayasinghe on charges of helping a suspect in the case.

Saturday's incident, in which the Tamil judge was reportedly targeted, appears to have sparked anxiety among politicians and lawyers in the island's north.

Northern Province Chief Minister C.V. Wigneswaran expressed serious concern over the officer's death and condemned the attack. The Tamil National Alliance, the main political formation representing northern Tamils, has urged the police to bring the perpetrators to justice and "investigate the conspiracies" behind the incident, while pointing to incidents of crime reaching "serious levels" in Jaffna peninsula.

Sick baby's parents agree to let him die

'No time for experimental treatment'

REUTERS
LONDON

The parents of Charlie Gard dropped their legal battle to give the terminally ill British baby further treatment on Monday and will now hold discussions with his London hospital about how he should be allowed to die.

Charlie's mother, Connie Yates, who won the support of U.S. President Donald Trump and Pope Francis with a campaign to keep him alive, said 11-month-old Charlie could have lived a normal life if he had been given treatment earlier.

The hardest decision
"This is the hardest thing we'll ever have to do," she said in London's High Court, where a judge had been due to hear final arguments as to why a hospital should not turn off the boy's life support. "We have decided it is no longer in his best interests to pursue treatment," Ms. Yates said. "We have decided to let our son go... Charlie did have a real chance of getting better. Now we will never know what would have happened if he got treatment."

Charlie has a genetic condition causing progressive muscle weakness and brain damage. His parents wanted to take him to the U.S. for experimental therapy. One of the Chinese jets came underneath the U.S. plane at high speed, then slowed and pulled up in front of it, he said. "It was forced to take evasive action after two Chinese J-10 warplanes intercepted a U.S. Navy EP-3 reconnaissance plane in international air space west of the Korean Peninsula, Pentagon spokesman Navy Captain Jeff Davis said.

One of the Chinese jets came underneath the U.S. plane at high speed, then slowed and pulled up in front of it, he said. "It was forced to take evasive action after two Chinese J-10 warplanes intercepted a U.S. Navy EP-3 reconnaissance plane in international air space west of the

MARKET WATCH

| | 24-07-2017 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex | 32,246 | 0.68 |
| US Dollar | 64.34 | -0.03 |
| Gold | 29,310 | 0.55 |
| Brent oil | 48.64 | 0.14 |

NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|-------------------|----------|--------|
| ACC | 1724.85 | 16.25 |
| Adani Ports | 388.45 | 6.55 |
| Ambuja Cements | 268.10 | 2.00 |
| Asian Paints | 1155.75 | -0.35 |
| Aurobindo Pharma | 745.25 | -3.00 |
| Axis Bank | 534.80 | -6.00 |
| Bajaj Auto | 2826.75 | 10.95 |
| Bank of Baroda | 164.20 | 2.45 |
| Bharti Airtel | 420.05 | 8.75 |
| Bosch | 24041.70 | 70.25 |
| BPCL | 466.20 | -0.95 |
| Cipla | 569.75 | 3.55 |
| Coal India | 261.55 | -0.80 |
| Dr Reddy's Lab | 2696.45 | -66.10 |
| Eicher Motors | 28843.75 | -59.40 |
| GAIL (India) | 377.00 | 0.00 |
| HCL Tech. | 907.40 | 2.45 |
| HDFC | 1632.25 | -8.70 |
| HDFC Bank | 1735.10 | 32.05 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 3692.30 | 10.30 |
| Hindalco | 214.40 | -0.15 |
| Hind Unilever | 1159.35 | 0.70 |
| Indiabulls HFL | 1157.25 | 19.80 |
| ICICI Bank | 303.05 | 1.00 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1554.50 | -12.15 |
| Bharti Infratech | 408.90 | -1.40 |
| Infosys | 990.55 | 10.45 |
| Indian Oil Corp | 378.15 | -2.75 |
| ITC | 293.25 | 4.35 |
| Kotak Bank | 992.95 | -6.50 |
| L&T | 1178.00 | -1.25 |
| Lupin | 1141.50 | -1.40 |
| M&M | 1388.95 | 2.90 |
| Maurti Suzuki | 7554.55 | 11.55 |
| NTPC | 164.05 | -0.75 |
| ONGC | 163.25 | -1.10 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 216.75 | 1.45 |
| Reliance Ind. | 1615.25 | 30.25 |
| State Bank | 294.55 | 3.90 |
| Sun Pharma | 570.80 | -5.15 |
| Tata Motors | 464.00 | -0.60 |
| Tata Motors DVR | 273.35 | -1.45 |
| Tata Power | 83.25 | -0.10 |
| Tata Steel | 548.50 | -4.75 |
| TCS | 2530.70 | 39.50 |
| Tech Mahindra | 339.05 | 4.35 |
| UltraTech Cement | 4197.50 | 20.85 |
| Vedanta | 264.60 | -3.75 |
| Wipro | 291.55 | 5.50 |
| YES Bank | 1593.25 | 15.60 |
| Zee Entertainment | 551.90 | -4.15 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|--------------------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 64.14 | 64.46 |
| Euro | 74.70 | 75.10 |
| British Pound | 83.61 | 84.04 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 57.88 | 58.17 |
| Chinese Yuan | 9.50 | 9.55 |
| Swiss Franc | 67.79 | 68.13 |
| Singapore Dollar | 47.11 | 47.35 |
| Canadian Dollar | 51.21 | 51.46 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 14.97 | 15.07 |

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

| July 24 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses |
|--|
| Retail Silver (1g) ... 40.80 ... (40.70) |
| 22 ct gold (1g) ... 2,726 ... (2,727) |

HDFC Bank first-quarter net profit increases 20%

Non-performing assets climb as farm loan waivers hit recoveries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank's net profit rose 20% to ₹3,893.8 crore during the first quarter of the financial year FY18 in spite of the lender reporting higher non-performing assets (NPAs) mainly from its agricultural portfolio as farm loan waivers impacted recoveries.

The country's second-largest private sector lender, which reported its April-June quarter earnings on Monday, said its gross non-performing loans, as a percentage of gross advances, increased to 1.24% in June 2017, compared with 1.04% as of June 2016.

"There was some increase [in NPAs] in this quarter and almost 60% of that increase has come through from the agricultural portfolio," said



Weak link: Almost 60% of the rise in NPAs was from the agricultural portfolio, says the deputy MD. ■ REUTERS

Pareesh Sukthankar, deputy managing director, HDFC Bank, at the post earnings address to the media.

"We believe that a fair portion of this impact does reflect changed customer behaviour in anticipation of

loan waiver which were announced," he said adding the lender had made higher provisioning for these NPAs than the regulatory requirement. The bank said recoveries from agricultural advances were impacted

Vodafone's deal with Idea wins nod from competition panel

Merger plan followed price war started by new entrant Jio

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India's antitrust regulator has approved the merger of Vodafone Group Plc's Indian unit with Idea Cellular, a lawyer representing Vodafone in the matter said on Monday.

In March, Vodafone India and Idea agreed to merge operations in a \$23 billion deal, creating the country's biggest telecom player after the entry of new entrant Reliance Jio sparked a price war. The deal has been pending Competition Commission of India (CCI) approval, along with other regulatory clearances.

Shweta Shroff Chopra, a partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, which is representing Vodafone, said the CCI approval is a very welcome development for both the Indian M&A landscape and the telecom sector, and will serve to fuel more investment into the



Call connect: The approval will help attract more investments in the telecom sector, says a lawyer for Vodafone. ■ REUTERS

archand Mangaldas, which is representing Vodafone, said the CCI approval is a very welcome development for both the Indian M&A landscape and the telecom sector in India.

A separate source told Reuters earlier on Monday that the deal had been approved by CCI. The two companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

telecom sector in India.

A separate source told Reuters earlier on Monday that the deal had been approved by CCI. The two companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Jio's 4G handset to hasten net adoption in India: Fitch

'It will also help reverse decline in telecom sector revenue'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio's plan to introduce a cheap 4G handset will accelerate Internet adoption in India and is also likely to help reverse the recent decline in telecom industry's revenue, according to Fitch Ratings.

The new telecom major is also likely to gain revenue market share as the new handset will attract first-time 4G users.

Jio's 4G handset is likely to quickly replace 2G handsets in rural areas, where smartphones had previously been out of reach for many customers," the agency said, pointing out that the phone will be available for a deposit



Jio may also gain revenue market share as first-time 4G users could turn subscribers.

of ₹22 — refundable after three years, as compared with a price of at least ₹60 for existing 4G smartphones. "Growth will be driven by increased data consumption and a rise in

Ambuja Cements Q2 profit slides

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Ambuja Cements said second-quarter net profit declined to ₹392 crore, from ₹452 crore in the year-earlier period, as manufacturing costs rose.

Net profit fell even as net sales rose 11% to ₹2,823 crore during the quarter. The company follows January-December as its financial year.

"Our investment in concrete laboratories, technical services and new products is paying off," said Ajay Kapur, MD & CEO, Ambuja Cements. "We are improving sales performance and EDITDA, despite rising manufacturing costs, especially power and fuel on back of rising pet-coke prices," he said.

Enough political will to seal RCEP talks'

People's groups seek to halt negotiations; claim FTA will harm farmers, industry

ARUN S
HYDERABAD

India is 'fully committed' to taking forward the negotiations for a mega Free Trade Agreement (FTA) called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), to ensure that it is a 'balanced' pact that benefits all the 16 Asia-Pacific nations including itself that are participating in the talks, according to commerce secretary Rita Teotaia.

The senior official, in effect, dismissed speculations that the India-China border stand-off will have an adverse impact on the trade talks.

While the RCEP negotiations — aiming to liberalise norms in the 16 countries including India and China to boost trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region — are underway behind closed doors at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre, several people's groups from across the country held demonstrations demanding a halt to the talks. They claimed that the

ating that there is enough political will to expedite the conclusion of the talks.

This is the 19th Round of the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee meeting at the technical level. In addition to this, so far there have been four Ministerial Meetings and three 'Inter-sessional' Ministerial Meetings'.

India Inc. is learnt to have reservations against India undertaking any binding commitment to immediately eliminate duties on most traded goods, as part of the FTA. However, Ms. Teotaia said "one should not underestimate India's strengths in various sectors." She added that FTA negotiations are always on the basis of "give and take" and that there will be "gains for India" from the team.

India is pushing for liberalisation of services, including easing norms for movement of professionals across borders for short-term work. However, the slow progress of the services negotiations has been worrying India.



Eye of suspicion: Fears abound that the FTA would result in a surge in the flow of cheap goods into India. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

mega-regional FTA will, among other things, adversely impact not only farmers' rights but also access to affordable medicines, besides threatening the protections to India's digital industry.

Surge feared However, the commerce secretary told *The Hindu* that "all the 16 countries, including India, have expressed willingness to constructively engage in the talks and have put forward revised offers in goods and services to negoti-

IMF retains India 2017 GDP growth forecast at 7.2%

Stays with 7.7% for next fiscal; lifts China, Japan projections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) July World Economic Outlook Update retained India's projected GDP growth rate for 2017-18 at 7.2%, and at 7.7% for 2018-19.

The IMF added that while activity slowed following demonetisation, growth for 2016-17 was higher than anticipated on the back of government spending and stronger momentum in the first part of that year, as revealed by data revisions.

Net interest income rose 20.4% to ₹9,370.7 crore driven by average loan growth of 20.7% and a core net interest margin of 4.4%.

Other income increased 25.3% year-on-year to ₹3,516.7 crore during the quarter. Provisions for the quarter were ₹1,558.8 crore as against ₹866.7 crore.



'Inflation remains subdued in advanced economies.' ■ AFP

to strong government spending and data revisions that show stronger momentum in the first part of the year."

The IMF had in April projected GDP growth in India at 7.2% and 7.7% in 2017-18 and 2018-19, respectively.

'On track'

"The pick up in global growth anticipated in the

April World Economic Outlook remains on track, with global output projected to grow by 3.5% in 2017 and 3.6% in 2018," the IMF said.

"The unchanged global growth projections mask somewhat different contributions at the country level. U.S. growth projections are lower than in April, primarily reflecting the assumption that fiscal policy will be less expansionary going forward than previously anticipated."

On the other hand, the growth outlook was revised upwards for Japan, the euro area, and China.

Inflation in advanced economies remains subdued and generally below targets; it has also been declining in several emerging economies, such as Brazil, India, and Russia," the IMF said.

IN BRIEF



Anti-dumping duty soon on truck, bus radial tyres

NEW DELHI The Commerce Ministry is planning to impose anti-dumping duty on import of truck and bus radial tyres with a view to guard domestic rubber players from cheap imports from China. "... Imposition of anti-dumping duty on import of truck and bus radial tyres is under process with Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties," Minister of State for MSME, Haribhai Chaudhary, told the Lok Sabha. PTI

Mahindra Finance Q1 net tumbles 46% to ₹58 cr.

NEW DELHI Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services has reported a 46% decline in net profit to ₹58.4 crore for the first quarter ended June 30. The company posted a net profit of ₹107.6 crore in the corresponding quarter of the 2016-17 fiscal. The total income (consolidated) increased to ₹1,886 crore for the quarter from ₹1,578.5 crore a year earlier, the company said in a statement. In the quarter, the company's customer base crossed 48 lakh customers. PTI

Indian firms' overseas investments dip 46%

MUMBAI Direct investments by Indian firms abroad plunged by 46% to \$1.12 billion in June this year, according to RBI data. They had invested \$2.07 billion in their overseas ventures in June last year. In the previous month, May 2017, the investment figure stood at \$1.26 billion. The investments made last month were a mix of issuance of guarantees (\$370.11 million), loans (178.80 million) and equity (\$568.34 million). PTI

Ambiguity on GST irks solar players

'Suppliers yet to pass on input tax credits; higher costs will be passed on to end users'

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

Ambiguity surrounding the Goods and Services Tax rate on various inputs is troubling the solar sector, with industry players also saying that their suppliers are not passing on the benefit arising out of input tax credits, leading to higher prices and eventually higher tariffs for customers.

"There is no clarity when it comes to the GST rates," Sanjeev Aggarwal, MD and CEO of Amplus Energy Solutions told *The Hindu*. "While the government is saying that there is a 5% rate on solar components, the truth is that the weighted average rate comes at about 10%. Some items are taxed at 18%, and some at the lower 5%. Others, like inverters, are even taxed at 28%."

"Suppliers have also not yet started passing on the benefits of the input tax credits



Uniform structure: It is not possible to apply different rates depending on end-use, say consultants. ■REUTERS

to us, so we are not getting the advantage of that either," Mr. Aggarwal added.

While the 5% tax rate specified by the GST Council for solar components has increased the cost of the pro-

jects, the ambiguity over the other inputs – which are used for projects other than in the solar sector – is creating confusion among solar developers.

"The module, which is al-

most half of the cost of the solar system... earlier there was no tax on it," Gagan Vermaani, founder and CEO at MYSUN said. "Now, it has come under 5%. Ultimately, it will increase the cost of the modules by 5%. And, we have to pass this on to the customers. Our cost of procurement has gone up, so the selling price will also go up."

End use classification

"There is also a little confusion on solar right now because the detailed gazette talks about structures, inverters, wires, and other components without specifying whether they are for solar or not," Mr. Vermaani added. "But there is a separate line item that says for solar utilities, the rate is 5%. So, there is confusion about whether an inverter, if it is being used for solar, comes under 5% or the normal rate of 28%."

"Because GST is an end-use tax, the government cannot even discriminate between uses by saying that, say, an inverter used for solar purposes will be taxed this much, but for other purposes at a higher rate," Mr. Aggarwal said. "This will be very difficult to implement and will also lead to misuse. How will one prove for what purpose it is being used for?"

The same is true for the other components as well.

"Everyday we are sitting with our tax consultants and trying to figure out the eventual impact on our projects," Sanjay Garudapally, director, business development, Rays Power Infra said. "We are getting different answers. Some are saying 10%, others are saying other rates. Nothing has been clarified so far since GST has rolled out, but we expect something to be done in about three weeks to a month."



Go local: Indian pharma exports to Russia have been declining due to regulatory issues. ■GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Russia's Chelyabinsk woos Indian pharma

Firms evince interest but seek clarity

N. RAVI KUMAR
HYDERABAD

Russia's Chelyabinsk region is seeking proposals from Indian pharmaceutical companies looking to set up manufacturing units there with a local partner.

Right time'

The invitation of Chelyabinsk, a region straddling the continental boundary of Asia and Europe, assumes significance in the context of growing emphasis in Russia to accord preference to locally made products. Indian pharma exports to Russia have been showing negative growth in recent years due to regulatory requirements and that government's policies encouraging self-sustenance.

So, "it is the right time for Indian pharma companies to consider investing in Russia," said Pharmexcil chairman Madan Mohan Reddy.

The Russian government is pursuing a Vision 2020 Document with a focus on building self-reliance in drugs, Mr. Bhaskar said, adding that about 25 firms, including Dr. Reddy's, MSN Labs, Aurobindo Pharma, Hetero Drugs, Aarti Drugs and Zee Laboratories participated in the meeting. Russia's focus is more on formulations than APIs, he added.

Pharmexcil Director General Ravi Uday Bhaskar said the meeting came in the backdrop of Chelyabinsk

Posts on bank closures 'baseless' rumours': IBA

Lenders say depositors' money is 'safe'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has dismissed social media posts about closures at public sector banks as 'baseless' rumours.

"There are rumours in some segments of social media messages based on misinformed communications and spreading false information about adverse financial strength and future of some public sector banks arising out of prompt corrective action (PCA) framework of RBI," IBA said in a statement on Monday.

"It is clarified by IBA that these rumours are baseless," the lenders' body said.

"The corrective measures



Aditya Birla eyes national rollout of innerwear range

Success in South India spurring firm's ambitions, says COO

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. has announced the national rollout of its innerwear and *athleisure* (casual clothing both for exercise and daily wear) business under Van Heusen brand name with an objective to emerge as the number two player in this segment in three years.

"After finding success of our innerwear and *athleisure* business in South India, we are now rolling out the range nationally," said Punit Kumar Malik, COO, Innerwear Business, Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. "Our target is to emerge as the significant number two

player after market leader Jockey in 2-3 years."

FY plans

He said the company, which forayed into this segment in September 2016 by introducing its range in southern states, had made 'significant inroads' in that market and had created a 'strong presence' across more than 1,700 outlets in 80 towns in South India.

"Now we have introduced our range in North India and soon, we will introduce our products in western India followed by the East. We will complete the pan India rollout in the first half of next year," he said.

"By the end of this financial year this business will have national presence across more than 7,000 multibrand outlets and over 30 exclusive business outlets.

The range will also be available across 250 Van Heusen exclusive stores, 300 Planet Fashion stores and leading departmental outlets across India," Mr. Malik said.

"We follow a localised distribution model which... has been well received by our business partners across South India and has created a strong value proposition for the brand. We will follow this model," he added.



THE HINDU GROUP



GIVE YOUR
EDUCATION
THE EDGE
IT NEEDS TO
TAKE OFF.

Discover an informative special that provides a 360 degree view of education. With a host of exciting features and articles, it's time to broaden your horizons.

EXCLUSIVE SECTIONS

COLUMNS BY EXPERTS | STUDENT-DRIVEN CONTENT

STUDY ABROAD | EXAM PREP | OFFBEAT CAREERS

LIFE ON CAMPUS | TEACHER INTERFACE

THE HINDU

EDGE

IN BRIEF



BCCI plans grand felicitation for team

NEW DELHI The BCCI is planning a grand felicitation for the Indian women's cricket team which won a billion hearts despite a heartbreaking loss in the World Cup final at Lord's on Sunday. The players will be presented with cheques for ₹50 lakh each while the support staff will receive ₹25 lakh each. Efforts are also on for an interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has praised the team. PTI



Aditi finishes tied eighth; Kim takes title

SYLVANIA (USA) Aditi Ashok's final round of two-over-par 74, for a total of 272, saw her finish the Marathon Classic in joint eighth place with four others here on Sunday. Aditi earned \$33,745 for her best showing in an LPGA event that was won by Korean In Kyung Kim (in pic.) with a 263. AGENCIES



Gauri for US Kids golf Teen World championship

MUMBAI The 15-year-old Gauri Karhade will take part in the US Kids golf Teen World championship at Pinehurst, North Carolina, USA, from 27 to 29. She qualified through her impressive performance in the 10th annual US kids golf European Championship at Edinburgh in May where she finished second.

TV PICKS

FINA world swimming championships: SS Select 1 & 1 HD, 12.50, 6.10 & 7.30 p.m.

Ultimate Table Tennis: SS Select 2 & 2 HD, 7.40 p.m.

World No. 1 India seeks to continue dominance

This season is one of overseas trips, starting with Sri Lanka

INDIA IN LANKA

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
GALLE

The Indian cricket conveyor belt seems to be on auto-pilot. Virat Kohli and most of his men have been playing without a break, if you take into account all three formats and the summer distraction that the Indian Premier League constitutes.

On the drive from Colombo to Galle, a highway coursing through green countryside peppered with tea and cinnamon plantations, cab driver Padmasri said with a tinge of melancholy: "No Mahela (Jayawardene), no Sanga (Kumar Sangakkara)!"

Form on the ascent and a rival on the run might mean that Kohli's men just need to step onto the park. But cricket tends to defy words etched on newsprint.

Casting aside the glorious-uncertainties cliché, it is the off-field drama that has taken a toll on the squad.

The manner in which Anil Kumble was forced out from his head-coach's position, the whispers it entailed, and the seeming eventuality of Rav Shastri stepping into the coach's shoes, have meant that Kohli and his troops have to consistently dish out

excellence. Victories will hopefully erase all talk about an unsavoury transition within the back-room staff, engineered by the captain himself!

The Test squad seems set, riding high on a bull-run back home with victories over New Zealand, England, Bangladesh and Australia, but the season ahead is one of overseas trips starting with Sri Lanka and also featuring South Africa.

The cogs are Kohli, Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and Wriddhiman Saha while the rest rally around these five players.

It is not that the others aren't settled in their roles but fitness issues for fast bowlers and a combination of injuries that derailed the opening duo of M. Vijay (who missed this tour) and K.L. Rahul, and form-issues specific to Shikhar Dhawan (prior to the Champions Trophy), have meant that



Fresh challenge: The Indian team returns to the longer format after enjoying a bull run at home last season. ■ AFP

within the certainty of a cohesive unit there is also a sense of churn.

Rahul's withdrawal from the first Test due to viral fever opens another riddle. Will Kohli stick to five bats

men while opting for opener Abhinav Mukund or push up Pujara and make way for Rohit Sharma in the middle-order? The cards India will deal with might become a bit evident during the pre-match

training here on Tuesday. Kohli's men will traverse Sri Lanka for a month-and-a-half with Tests here, Colombo and Pallekele book-ended by five ODIs and a T20.

If the team can extend its

form from a fruitful last season, it will have enough reasons to draw 'cheer' from the Emerald Isle that has offered that attribute aplenty the world over, thanks to its famous Ceylon tea.

Rahul ruled out

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GALLE

K.L. Rahul has been ruled out of the first Test between India and Sri Lanka, commencing here on Wednesday.

Through a BCCI press-release, the Board's acting-secretary Amitabh Choudhary stated that the opener is 'presently down with viral fever'.

Rapid progress

The official statement also added that though Rahul is 'making rapid progress, as a precautionary measure, he is advised further rest'. After the fourth and final Test against Australia at Dharamshala in March, Rahul underwent a corrective surgery on his injured left shoulder. Subsequently, he missed the IPL and was not available for the Champions Trophy in England.

I am a far better cricketer than what I was in 2015'

India's strike bowler Ashwin dwells on his 50th Test and evolution as a player



Learning all the time: R. Ashwin says he tries to get better every day. ■ AFP

Ashwin's top-three moments

- ICC Cricketer-of-the-Year Award in 2016
- The 4-0 triumph over England in Tests last year
- The Bengaluru Test against Australia in March, which India won after conceding the first-innings lead

(Kohli) had just taken over in Australia and we came here having played one Test in Bangladesh. And we had set ourselves a lot of goals for each other and achieved them over the last couple of years. We have produced a lot of good cricketers, some young cricketers have come in and put their hands up and some others have excelled really. That includes me, (Ravindra) Jadeja and Pujji (Cheteshwar Pujara).

Evolution within: I am a lot calmer. Back then, I was a bit like a cat on a hot tin roof. I was looking forward to performing desperately because sometimes, like I have said,

my performances need to be that much more better for me to get anywhere in my career. I (now) do take things in the stride – bad days, ordinary days and mediocre days. I have become a far better cricketer than what I was when I came here in 2015.

Adelaide heart-break: It might look a little awkward but it doesn't mean very much (being dropped in the 2014 Adelaide Test) to me to be honest. As a cricketer I only want to be excellent, I don't want to be a survivor. I don't like to hold onto things desperately. Equations change and equations remain the same but I think it's only my attitude towards the game and performance that has changed over the years.

Ashwin the batsman: I do set high benchmarks for myself. I would say that I am pretty low on the kind of average that I would like to have. At one point I started with around 42-43, and today I am at 33. I could have done better.

With tennis elbow issues, it did pull me down as a Test

Favourite scalps

- Kumar Sangakkara (P. Sara Oval, 2015)
- A.B. de Villiers (VDC Stadium, Nagpur, 2015)
- Shaun Marsh (Sydney Cricket Ground, 2015)

batsman, but yes, the graph is on the way back. I am batting pretty well.

The last series against Australia I had some very innocuous dismissals, so I will put it behind me and get better again.

New coach? I really thought it was about my 50th Test. The decision has been made and it is something that I can't really comment on. Ravi bhai has been a fabulous person to have in the dressing room.

Even when he was here last time, he picked us up from that low point of the Galle loss. He can have a positive influence and we are looking forward to working together and producing some amazing results.

Windfall a welcome development

Coaches Tarak and Vinod, who have seen it all, hope the women's game takes off from here

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

They would often dip into their pockets to sustain their association with the game. For Tarak Sinha and Vinod Sharma, two coaches who served women's cricket with little monetary gains, the financial windfall for the cur-

rent team is a welcome development.

"It was nothing but passion to play cricket that drove most girls two decades ago. Of course, there was the compelling attraction of landing up a government job (with Air India or Railways) but I have seen the difficult

days when they would even spend to play the game," recalled Sinha.

Coach of the team for two seasons beginning 2001, Sinha travelled to England, New Zealand and South Africa during times when the game was governed by the Women's Cricket Association

of India (WCAI).

"Making a mark was the driving force. Mithali [Raj] and Jhulan [Goswami] were making their debut and held a lot of promise."

"Hemlata [Kala] was the one to watch out for. Mithali was a compulsive stroke-player and I made her understand the value of putting a price on her wicket."

"I am delighted to see her grow into one of the finest woman cricketers of all time," said Sinha.

Sharma spent two decades in Railways trying to spot talent and groom them. It was former Board president Madhavrao Scindia's initiative (as Union Railways Minister) to focus on women cricketers.

"In 1985 we formed a women's team and recruited promising cricketers from all over India. We won the National championship in our first year. That was the beginning of a glorious run for Railways," recalled Sharma.

Sandhya Agarwal, Gargi Banerji, Mithu Mukherjee, Sharmila Chakravarty, Shashi Gupta were some of the prominent members of Railways/India then. "We introduced the inter-Railway competition which grew

of India (WCAI).

"Making a mark was the driving force. Mithali [Raj] and Jhulan [Goswami] were making their debut and held a lot of promise."

"Hemlata [Kala] was the

one to watch out for. Mithali was a compulsive stroke-player and I made her understand the value of putting a price on her wicket."

"I am delighted to see her grow into one of the finest woman cricketers of all time," said Sinha.

Sharma spent two decades in Railways trying to spot talent and groom them.

It was former Board president

Madhavrao Scindia's ini-

tiative (as Union Railways Minister) to focus on women cricketers.

"In 1985 we formed a women's team and recruited promising cricketers from all over India. We won the National championship in our first year. That was the beginning of a glorious run for Railways," recalled Sharma.

Sandhya Agarwal, Gargi Banerji, Mithu Mukherjee, Sharmila Chakravarty, Shashi Gupta were some of the prominent members of Railways/India then. "We introduced the inter-Railway competition which grew

World Cup in numbers

Top run-getters

| Player | I | Runs | HS | Avg | S/R | 100 | 50 |
|----------------------|---|------|-----|-------|-------|-----|----|
| Tammy Beaumont (Eng) | 9 | 410 | 148 | 45.55 | 76.92 | 1 | 1 |
| Mithali Raj (Ind) | 9 | 409 | 109 | 45.44 | 70.15 | 1 | 3 |
| Elyse Perry (Aus) | 8 | 404 | 71 | 80.80 | 77.54 | 0 | 5 |
| Sarah Taylor (Eng) | 9 | 396 | 147 | 49.50 | 99.00 | 1 | 2 |
| Punam Raut (Ind) | 9 | 381 | 106 | 42.33 | 67.43 | 1 | 2 |

Most sixes

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|------------|
| Lizelle Lee (SA) | 7 (Inn) | 12 (Sixes) |
| Harmanpreet Kaur (Ind) | 8 (Inn) | 11 (Sixes) |

Most dismissals (wk)

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Sushma Verma (Ind) | 7 (Ct) | 8 (St) |
| Alyssa Healy (Aus) | 5 (Ct) | 3 (St) |

Top wicket-takers

| | I | O | W | BB | Econ | Ave | SR |
|-----------------------|---|------|----|------|------|-------|------|
| Dane van Niekerk (SA) | 7 | 43.2 | 15 | 4/0 | 3.46 | 10.00 | 17.3 |
| Marizanne Kapp (SA) | 7 | 56.3 | 13 | 4/14 | 4.46 | 19.38 | 26.0 |
| Kristen Beams (Aus) | 7 | 65.0 | 12 | 3/23 | 4.09 | 22.16 | 32.5 |
| Anya Shrubsole (Eng) | 9 | 65.4 | 12 | 6/46 | 4.62 | 25.33 | 32.8 |
| Deepti Sharma (Ind) | 9 | 78.4 | 12 | 3/47 | 4.70 | 30.83 | 39.3 |



Beaumont

Anyा Shrubsole (Eng) 9.4 0 46 6
Rajeshwari Gaykwa (Ind v NZ) 7.3 1 15 5
Ekta Bisht (Ind v Pak) 10 2 18 5
Holly Huddleston (NZ v SL) 10 1 35 5
Sune Luus (SA vs Aus) 10 0 67 5

Beaumont

IN BRIEF



Original Lakers coach Kundla dead

LOS ANGELES John Kundla, a Hall of Fame coach who led the Minneapolis Lakers to five NBA titles before the team moved to Los Angeles, died on Sunday. He was 101. Kundla, the original coach of the Lakers NBA franchise, had been in a Minneapolis assisted living facility in recent years.

Thomas Sorensen announces retirement

MELBOURNE Former Denmark international goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen said on Monday he is retiring from professional football after a playing career spanning 24 years. A veteran of over 350 matches in the English Premier League with Sunderland, Aston Villa and Stoke City, Sorensen played 101 times for the Danish national team. The 41-year-old ends his career after two seasons with Melbourne City in Australia's A-League, where he was named the league's goalkeeper of the year in his first season.

Sachin Siwach picks up gold at CYG

NASSAU World youth champion Sachin Siwach beat Welsh boxer James Nathan Probert 4-1 in the final to claim the gold in the light flyweight (49kg) category at the Commonwealth Youth Games here on Sunday. Muhammed Etash Khan had to be content with a bronze in the bantamweight (56kg) division after losing 3-2 to England's Reuben Shiloh Defreitas in the semifinals. In the girls section, Jony settled for silver in the lightweight (60kg) category after going down 3-2 to Australian Ella Jade Boot in the final.

Konsam Ormila wins gold

KOLKATA Konsam Ormila Devi lifted a total of 126kg to claim the women's 44kg gold medal on the opening day of the Asian youth and junior weightlifting championship at Kathmandu on Monday. Ormila did 56kg in snatch and 70kg in clean and jerk.

Prithvi Sekhar loses in the quarterfinals

SAMSUN (TURKEY) Eighth seeded Slovenian Marino Kegl defeated Prithvi Sekhar 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the Deaflympics' tennis tournament here on Monday. Indian medal hopes in tennis now rest on the mixed doubles pair of Prithvi and Jafreen Shaik, and the women's doubles team of Parul Gupta and Madhu Jaiswal, who are both in the semifinals.

Prannoy has the last laugh

Overcomes compatriot Kashyap in an intense summit clash

US OPEN

AGENCIES



Richly deserved: P. Kashyap and H.S. Prannoy with their rewards after the summit clash on Sunday.

* COURTESY: USA BADMINTON TWITTER PAGE

"It was a good, pretty intense and high quality match. After losing the second game narrowly, I was calm and patient enough and it worked for me," said Prannoy.

"In second game, Kashyap was playing better. He was putting a lot of pressure on net and finishing the lifts that I was producing. That made the whole difference. But in the third game, I changed my strategy and I had a good lead. I am overall happy with the tournament."

The duo, who had a 1-1 head-to-head record, engaged in fast-paced rallies and Prannoy more often sealed the rallies with his powerful smashes.

In the first game, Kashyap moved to a 7-1 lead before entering the interval with a sizzling smash on the forehand of Prannoy, who slowly reduced the gap to 9-12 and

then turned the tables with five straight points.

Kashyap clawed back to level at 15-15 but Prannoy looked unstoppable as he reeled off six straight points to grab the first game with another cross-court smash.

The second game had some intense moments as the duo fought fiercely for each points.

Kashyap lead 14-9 at one stage but Prannoy drew parity at 15-15. Kashyap continued to exert pressure on his younger colleague and had a 20-18 lead.

Prannoy grabbed two points before Kashyap roared back into contest with another superb smash.

In the decider, Prannoy changed his strategy. His deft touch in the lifts and better net strokes earned him points as he zoomed to a 13-7 lead.

The 24-year-old continued sealed the issue when Kashyap misjudged a shuttle at the baseline.

The Badminton Association of India has announced cash awards for both Prannoy and Kashyap

India strikes it rich

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India ended its campaign at the Asian cadet wrestling championships in Bangkok with a rich haul of 23 medals, including five golds, according to information received here on Monday.

The second game had some intense moments as the duo fought fiercely for each points.

Kashyap lead 14-9 at one stage but Prannoy drew parity at 15-15. Kashyap continued to exert pressure on his younger colleague and had a 20-18 lead.

Prannoy grabbed two points before Kashyap roared back into contest with another superb smash.

In the decider, Prannoy changed his strategy. His deft touch in the lifts and better net strokes earned him points as he zoomed to a 13-7 lead.

The 24-year-old continued sealed the issue when Kashyap misjudged a shuttle at the baseline.

The Badminton Association of India has announced cash awards for both Prannoy and Kashyap

Regional talent boost... NEUFC way

NANDAKUMAR MARAR

MUMBAI

True to his word, owner John Abraham has picked nine players from the Northeast football belt out of the 13 chosen from the domestic Player Draft.

Abraham also spent the lowest among the 10 franchises in securing domestic talent (₹3.66 crore as against Bengaluru FC's ₹6.01 crore).

With the Indian Super League being city-based, football in other regions will get a boost if the owners believe in Abraham's philosophy of promoting regional talent.

"Other clubs are city-specific or State-specific. We want to bring an inclusiveness in the whole northeast region," he said.

Holicharan Narzary, India striker, was the first pick (₹4.5 lakh) and Sushil Meetei the last (₹6 lakh).

The NEUFC owner is clear about the direction his franchise will take. A five-year tie-up has already been announced with Neroa FC, the newly-promoted team from northeast.

"We clearly believe youth



is the way forward," he said, adding: "Our associations with Shillong United and Neroa are aimed at promoting the game throughout the region."

The home games have attracted capacity crowds and the return of match-winners like Narzary, Lahindra Ralte and Nirmal Chhetri will only bring in more fans.

NEUFC has retained two consistent performers from outside the State, goalkeeper T.P. Reheneesh and midfielder Rowlin Borges. Under new coach Joao de Deus, one hopes the owner's philosophy takes shape.

Board of Uncontrollables'

Do cricketers play for BCCI or India, asks Bedi

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

NEW DELHI



Bishan Singh Bedi.
* FILE PHOTO: V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi on Monday questioned the persistent resistance to reforms by some of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials.

"Who controls cricket in India? Is it the preserve of a select group of friends or is it a sport which represents a way of life for millions of Indians? Do cricketers play for the BCCI or do they play for India?" Bedi asked.

Merry-makers

Referring to the Supreme Court directive to the Board to implement the Lodha Committee recommendations, Bedi said, "Over the last 18 months, I have been seeing the extent of resistance of a select band of merry-makers in BCCI who did not want to be 'disturbed' from their enjoyment.

"These guys had perfected the election mantra: 'Just get together a ramshackle group by offering position and perks to them'. In fact, the current BCCI interim president has mastered the election process over the last 35 years."

The former India captain

was appalled at the Board's response to the entire process.

"After the Supreme Court gave a clear judgement in the BCCI case, and incorporated almost all recommendations of the Justice Lodha Committee, it was expected that it was all over for the BCCI, bar the shouting. "But, BCCI office-bearers are made of sterner stuff. In fact, when the then CJI had given a patient hearing to all State units and had asked BCCI what their objections to the recommendations were, they came up with bizarre excuses to thwart the imposition of norms of transparency and integrity."

Criticising the current set of Board office-bearers, Bedi observed, "One year has

passed, yet the BCCI ex officio-bearers have adopted every trick in the book to hoodwink the Supreme Court. Finally, it is a matter of utmost satisfaction that the Supreme Court has now barred N. Srinivasan and Niranjan Shah from attending the BCCI's SGM scheduled for July 26."

Making a fervent appeal, Bedi said, "BCCI should not be given any window to revert to their specialised operation of 'managing elections and perpetuating a cozy-club'."

The insignia

Bedi also raised the issue of the Board's insignia. "Cricketers play for the country, and wish to play under the Indian insignia and flag. Why should they wear apparel showing the BCCI logo and not the Indian Ashoka 'stambh'?

"Just look at any other country's board. They do not say 'Board of Control', rather, they call themselves Cricket Australia, ECB, SLCB, WICB, etc."

On a concluding note, Bedi requested the Supreme Court to, "Order a forensic audit of all State associations to see how money has been swindled by many office-bearers."

Manchester United pips Real Madrid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SANTA CLARA (USA)

Anthony Martial offered Jose Mourinho a timely reminder of his attacking prowess on Sunday despite missing from the spot in Manchester

United's penalty shoot-out victory over Real Madrid in the International Champions Cup tie at Santa Clara.

United was the sharper outfit, particularly Lingard, which caused Real plenty of

problems drifting inside off the right.

The result: Manchester United 1 (Lingard 45+1) drew with Real Madrid 1 (Casemiro 69+pen) (Manchester United won 2-1 on penalties).

United was the sharper outfit, particularly Lingard, which caused Real plenty of

Soumya is sole leader

CORRESPONDENT

MYSURU

Top-seeded WGM Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB) emerged as the sole leader with 5.5 points from six rounds in the 44th National women challengers chess championships on Monday.

Important results: Sixth round:

Soumya Swaminathan (5.5) drew with Mary Ann Gomes (5); M. Mahalakshmi (5) drew with Kiran Manisha Mohanty (5).

G. Lasya (4.5) drew with Nisha Mohota (4.5); Bhakti Kulkarni (5) bt R. Divya Lakshmi (4).

Swati Ghate (4.5) bt K. Manasa (3.5); A. Makhija (4.5) bt Pratyusha Bodda (3.5).

P.V. Nandhidhaa (4) drew with Ishita Sharma (4); G. Sandhya (4) drew with Srija Seshadri (4).

Fifth round: Divya lost to Soumya; Mary Ann Gomes bt Priyanka; Kiran bt Makhija; Sanskriti lost to Mahalakshmi; Lakshmi drew with Lasya; Nisha bt Shety; Bala lost to Bhakti Kulkarni.

Another 6x6 hero

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

Worcestershire's Ross Whiteley hit six sixes in an over on Sunday to join a

select group who've performed the feat in senior cricket.

The southpaw struck Yorkshire left-arm spinner Karl Carver for six sixes during the 16th over of the innings in an English T20 match at Headingley.

But he fell for 65 off 26 balls as Worcestershire

finished on 196 for seven in a 37-run defeat.

Garry Sobers (West Indies), Ravi Shastri (India), Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa) and Yuvraj Singh (India) have all matched that achievement in either First Class, One-Day or T20 cricket.

In 2013, Lancashire's Jordan Clark too pulled off the feat, but in a second XI match against Yorkshire at Scarborough.

Zeel Desai pulls off a 'double' at the CYG

Bags the girls' title, and wins the mixed doubles with Siddhant Bhantia



Primed for the big league: Zeel Desai's coach reckons the 18-year-old is now ready to graduate to the women's circuit full-time. ■ AP

come what may. I was so motivated playing for the country.

"It was a wonderful experience winning these gold medals. I was playing for India and the expectations were really high on our doing well in tennis," said Zeel.

Special Correspondent adds from New Delhi

Zeel's Ahmedabad-based coach Todd Clark was elated at his ward's success, and

praised her – and Siddhant – for their match-preparation during the event.

"Zeel's performances have been reasonably consistent over the past two years. We've developed a good rapport, and our communication, both on phone and online, has played an important role," said Clark, who often finds himself unable to travel with his young

charge owing to commitments at his academy where he trains about 350 players.

It was very encouraging, Clark said, to find Zeel handle the situation in a positive way and "mature both as a player and as a person, taking more responsibility for her performance and development".

"Zeel has now developed the ability to provide me with a fairly accurate recap of her matches, and this has allowed me to help her more effectively," Clark, who has been coaching her for the last two years, said.

Zeel will sign off on her junior career at the US Open, after which she will compete only in the women's events.

"Obviously, Zeel would love to represent India at the senior level in the future. The Fed Cup and the Asian Games will surely be some targets that she would work hard to achieve," said Clark.

FAITH

Hurdles to self-realisation

The Brihadaranyaka extols the Supreme Brahman as the Changeless Reality. The entire Prapancham, the earth, fire, air, space and ether are held within the Supreme Brahman; the entire concept of Time seen as the past, present and future is also within this Brahman; and this Brahman stands beyond all Space and Time eternally.

For an individual to internalise this truth and experience Brahman as the atma and the antaratma in the entire creation is a difficult spiritual exercise, pointed out Nochur Sri Venkataraman in a discourse. The story quoted by Sri Ramakrishna illustrates how it is difficult to imbibe subtle truths.

A sishya, taught by a guru to see Narayana swaroopa in all beings and objects, tries to sincerely understand the import of this teaching in daily life. Once, he sees an elephant on the road and goes towards it thinking of his guru's instruction to see the Lord in it. He does not heed the mahout's warnings to keep away from it as it is amuck and gets hurt. Is not the mahout also the Lord's swaroopa?

Many a time, partial understanding of esoteric matters is a natural hurdle to all. The

IN BRIEF



Isner claims Hall of Fame Open title

WASHINGTON Top seed John Isner defeated Australian Matthew Ebden 6-3, 7-6(4) to win the ATP Hall of Fame Open on Sunday. AFP



Tomic has no love for tennis

SYDNEY Australian star Bernard Tomic admits he is playing tennis just for the money and says he has no love for a game that has earned him millions. Asked to provide advice to aspiring tennis players he was blunt. "Don't play tennis. Do something you love and enjoy, because it's a grind, and it's a tough, tough, tough life. I'm trapped. I have to do it. Tennis chose me. It's something I never fell in love with." AFP



'Pedro suffered multiple fractures'

SINGAPORE Chelsea boss Antonio Conte said on Monday that forward Pedro sustained "multiple fractures" to his face after colliding with Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina. The 29-year-old Spaniard was taken to hospital with a bloodied face after Ospina flew into him while clearing a ball with two fist in Beijing on Saturday.

Conte said: "The situation was more serious, because I hoped that it would only be a concussion. Instead He had multiple fractures."

Han Ying, Gacina set up Challengers' win

Yoddhas and Mavericks, both with 48 points, face elimination

ULTIMATE TT

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

In a neck-and-neck tie that saw a thrilling finish, World No. 9 Han Ying maintained her unbeaten run in the Ultimate Table Tennis league to subdue Fu Yu and complete Shaze Challengers' 15-12 triumph over Maharashtra United here on Monday.

After four matches each in the six-team league, Challengers moved to the second spot with 58 points, behind leader Falcons (61). United held the fourth spot with 54 points, one behind Dabang Smashers.

With the last round of

league remaining, Yoddhas and Mavericks both with 48 points face elimination.

Monday's encounter featured the highest-ranked male and female players of the league in the opposite camps. As it turned out, Han Ying won five out of six sets in contrast to World No 8 Wong Chun Ting, who could only win three out of six.

In fact, in the tie-deciding contest, what took the pressure off Han Ying was her teammate Li Ping's surprise 2-1 victory over Wong Chun Ting in the penultimate match.

This result put the Challengers 13-11 up and left Han Ying, who represents Ger-

many, with the task of winning at least one of the last three sets against the World No. 37 representing Portugal.

Han Ying, who had earlier beaten Pooja Sahasrabudhe 3-0, claimed the first set 11-7 to clinch the tie for the Challengers. But she was not finished with her job for the evening. She went on to the next win the next 11-5 before Fu Yu won a consolation set for her team.

Before Han Ying, Andrej Gacina won five sets for Challengers in the first half of the contest. He blitzed past Harmeet Desai 3-0 and Joao Monteiro 2-1. In fact, Challengers could have won by a bigger margin had Mouma

Das not tossed away a 7-2 lead in the final set against Fu Yu and Soumyajit Ghosh not squandered a 8-2 final-set advantage against Wong Chun Ting.

The results: Shaze Challengers beat Maharashtra United 15-12 (Andrej Gacina bt Harmeet Desai 11-6, 11-9, 11-5; Mouma Das lost to Fu Yu 11-5, 7-11, 7-11; Ghosh and Petrisa Solja lost to Harmeet Desai and Liu Jia 5-11, 2-11, 11-7; Gacina bt Joao Monteiro 11-6, 11-9, 7-11; Solja lost to Liu Jia 5-11, 5-11, 10-11; Ghosh lost to Wong Chun Ting 8-11, 11-2, 9-11; Han Ying bt Pooja Sahasrabudhe 11-3, 11-7, 11-5; Li Ping bt Wong Chun Ting 6-11, 11-9, 11-8; Han Ying bt Fu Yu 11-7, 11-5, 8-11).



Crucial win: Li Ping's surprise 2-1 victory over Wong Chun Ting in the penultimate match took the pressure off teammate Han Ying. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Japan outplays South Korea

Energetic Yoshida puts in a spirited performance

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Japan underlined its contender status by posting a second successive victory in Division A of the FIBA Asia women's cup on Monday.

The powerhouse unit out-ran and outplayed South Korea 70-56 at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here. Later in the day, China shut out Chinese Taipei 102-63 for its second win.

The quick-footed Japanese side, led by point guard Asami Yoshida, set the pace early. Full-court press was used to good effect, which resulted in plenty of fast-break points.

Yoshida, one of the best play-makers in the continent, stood out as a supreme athlete.

The 5'5" hoopster had the sparse crowd on its feet when she leaped over the sideline to retrieve a loose pass. Not only did she reach the ball, but managed to pull off a no-look pass – while in



Livewire: Asami Yoshida delighted the sparse crowd with her speedy runs and acrobatic retrievals. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

the air – to an open teammate.

Yoshida recorded eight assists in all, while the scoring was handled by Moeka Nagao (13 points), Manami Fujioka (14) and Maki Takada (10). A small group of South

Korean supporters brought some welcome energy to the largely lifeless venue.

The fans, students from Seoul who are in the city on an exchange programme, rallied behind the North Korean side as well.

The results: Division A: Australia 107 (Sara Blicavs 17, Stephanie Cumming 18, Katie Rae Ebzery 12, Alanna Smith 12, Lauren Mansfield 12, Laura Hodges 10) bt Phillipines 65 (Janine Pontejos 18, May Lim 11).

New Zealand 71 (Harmon Jillian 23, Michaela Cocks 16, Kalani Purcell 11, Antonia Edmondson 10) bt North Korea 50 (Hyang Jong 17, Suk Yong 15); Japan 70 (Moeko Nagaoka 13, Manami Fujioka 14, Maki Takada 10) bt South Korea 56 (Hui Yung Lim 12, Hana Park 10, Yeong Joo Kwak 12); China 102 (Huang Sijing 25, Li Yuering 19, Huang Hongpin 15, Shao Ting 11, Shen Yi 10, Gao Song 10) bt Chinese Taipei 63 (Huang Ping-Jen 13, Lin Yu-Ting 12).

Division B: Lebanon 118 (Nour Schoucar 21, Chirine El Charif 13, Miramar Mokdad 14) bt Fiji 48 (Bulou Koyamainavire 13, Seini Dobui 12); Kazakhstan 73 (Tamara Yagodkin 16, Oxana Ossipenko 14, Zalina Kurazova 15, Oxana Ivanova 10) bt Singapore 52 (Cheryl Poon 15, Jacqueline Chu 13).

In a race billed as 'War on the Water, Part II', the rivalry in the pool failed to materialise on Sunday as Sun become only the second swimmer to win a third 400 freestyle world title after Ian Thorpe of Australia 14 years ago.

Sun eclipses bitter rival Horton

Ledecky completes the World 400m freestyle hat-trick too

REUTERS
BUDAPEST

China's Sun Yang destroyed the field to win a hat-trick of men's 400 metres freestyle titles while American Katie Ledecky reached more milestones in her glittering career as the swimming events got under way at the world aquatics championships on Sunday.

Sun posted a world-leading time of three minutes 41.38 seconds as he eased to victory by more than a body length over bitter Australian Mack Horton.

In a race billed as 'War on the Water, Part II', the rivalry in the pool failed to materialise on Sunday as Sun become only the second swimmer to win a third 400 freestyle world title after Ian Thorpe of Australia 14 years ago.

The 25-year-old Sun, wearing a distinctive pink swimsuit, looked in ominous form after taking the lead at the 150m mark and, after garnering his eighth world



Número Uno! Sun Yang celebrates his 400m freestyle win on Sunday. ■ AFP

title, he glared at Horton who was racing in lane two after a sluggish morning heat. Thirty minutes later, Ledecky duly bagged the 400m freestyle in another one-woman show of speed and agility to secure a trio of World titles.

Jostrom's World record

Ledecky also helped the U.S. to a brilliant gold in the women's 4x100m relay – which included a World record for

Swede Sarah Sjostrom for the 100m freestyle

The results: Men: 400m: 1. Sun Yang (Chn) 3:41.38s, 2. Mack Horton (Aus) 3:43.85, 3. Gabriele Detti (Ita) 3:43.93; 4x100m freestyle: 1. USA 3:10.06s, 2. Brazil, 3. Hungary

Women: 400m freestyle: 1. Katie Ledecky (USA) 3:58.34, 2. Leah Smith (USA) 4:01.54, 3. Li Bing Jie (Chn) 4:03.25; 4x100m freestyle: 1. USA 3:31.72, 2. Australia, 3. Netherlands.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL MANAGEMENT
(Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Anna University Campus, Chennai 600 025, INDIA
Phone : (+91) 44 2220 0609, Fax : (+91) 44 2220 0700, email : procurement@ncscm.res.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Ref No. PR 05/2017

The Director, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai invites bids for "Facility Management Services". The detailed notice & the bid document can be seen and downloaded from the NCSCM Web-Site http://www.ncscm.res.in/cms/procurement/tenders_services

Important details are

1. Period of Sale of bid document : 26.07.2017 to 16.08.2017
2. Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting : 08.08.2017 at 02.30 P.M
3. Last Date & Time of receipt of bids : 17.08.2017 at 11.30 A.M
4. Date & Time of opening of bids : 17.08.2017 at 12.00 noon

– Director, NCSCM

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

(A Government of India Undertaking)

ELECTRONICS DIVISION

P.B.No. 2606, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru - 560 026

REF: ANKBOS0008

Dated: 25.07.2017

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders in the prescribed form are invited from manufacturers / contractors having experience in supply and execution of similar nature of work.

Supply and I & C support for 2.9MVA Inverter Transformers for 10MW BEL Bolangir SPV Project.

For details visit www.bheldn.com, www.bhel.com, www.tenders.gov.in All corrigenda, addendum, amendments, time extensions, clarifications, etc. (if any) to the tender will be hosted on these websites: www.bheldn.com only.

Note: Registration process for items required by BHEL is always open at <http://supplier.bhel.in> Prospective suppliers (including MSE's & owned by SCs/STs) may visit this site and apply for registration in the respective Unit.

Authorised Signatory

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Materials Management Division, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064,
Fax: 080-2846036, Phone: 080-28072740, 28072704, 28460394,
WBSITE: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in, E-MAIL: mmd@rwf.raileight.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO.RWF/S/146/2017-18 /04 DATED 24.07.2017

E- TENDERS : On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWF invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> from experienced/reputed contractors in the field. Offers IN PHYSICAL FORMAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN THE CASE OF THE FOLLOWING TENDER.

Tender No. & date RWF_S_RT_NOC_O_2017-18 RWF_S_RT_OC_O_2017-18

Due date & time 24/08/2017 Tender closing at 14.15 hrs. 24/08/2017 Tender closing at 14.15 hrs.

Scope of work Breaking of scrap rails of all sorts and sizes provided by RWF into lengths not more than 12 inches at contractor's premises using Rail breaking machine or any other non-ox cutting method or process and returning the processed/cut rails to RWF.

Quantity 5000 MT

Estt. Tender value Rs.76,60,000/-

Cost of Tender document Rs.5,250/-

EMD amount Rs.1,53,200/-

Contract Period 8 (eight) months from the date of commencement of work.

7 (seven) months from the date of commencement of work.

This tender notice can be viewed on our Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

E-Auction Notice No. RWF/GSD/Sales Section/ 2017-18 / 02

Dated: 21/07/2017.

On behalf of the PRESIDENT OF INDIA, The Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWF invites E-Auction for the sale of scrap items. (Ferrous/ Non-Ferrous/Miscellaneous and Others) online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. E-Auction date and time is given below:

07.08.2017, 17.08.2017, 30.08.2017, 12.09.2017, 20.09.2017, 27.09.2017

E-Auction catalogue can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in, Phone: 080-28072922, 38.

Dy.CMM/Depot

C M Y K

CMYK

CMY

IN BRIEF



Bachchan to continue as UNICEF ambassador

MUMBAI Actor Amitabh Bachchan will continue to act as goodwill ambassador for UNICEF for another two years. "My ambassadorship for Unicef extended for another two years after success of polio drive, now working for MR inoculation for kids," Big B tweeted. He will promote awareness of measles and rubella vaccines. PTI



Phelps meets his match in simulated shark

NEW YORK Michael Phelps has finally met his match in the water: a "great white shark". The Olympic champion, wearing a wetsuit and a monofin, competed in the ocean against a computer-simulated fish based on data on the swimming speed of sharks. He lost the 100 metre race by two seconds. AP



George Martin promises Westeros book in 2018

LOS ANGELES George R.R. Martin has said that a Westeros book will be out next year. "Whether Winds or the first volume of Fire and Blood will be the first to hit the bookstores is hard to say now, but I do think you will have a Westeros book from me in 2018... and who knows, maybe two," he wrote in his blog. PTI

Olympics 2020: Japan begins three-year countdown

After a rocky start, organisers gear up to get the public more involved

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Japan on Monday began the three-year countdown to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with celebrations and fanfare, even as organisers struggle to contain soaring costs and restore credibility.

Japanese celebrities and athletes dressed in bright kilomons gathered for the launch of a remake of a popular 1964 Tokyo Olympics song, as organisers promised to turn the 2020 Games into the biggest "natsu matsuri" (summer festival) ever.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, clad in a white traditional Japanese "happi" coat, attended a flag ceremony at city hall.

"I hope to lead the Olympics to success with all of you," she told the audience.

Slashing rising costs

The International Olympic Committee, fearful that ballooning budgets could see future Olympic bids dry up, last month praised local organisers for slashing costs.

Ms. Koike last year ordered a review of the budget which recommended revised plans to reduce costs projected to rise to more than \$25 billion – four times the initial estimates when Tokyo won the 2020 hosting rights.

Tokyo organisers have since slashed costs to around \$13 billion but have otherwise largely failed to inspire confidence after the city beat Madrid and Istanbul in its bid to host the Games for a second time.

Progress on the financial front comes after a rocky start when the initial roll-out of the centrepiece Olympic stadium was bungled, forcing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2015 to tear up the blueprints amid public anger



Faster and higher: Japan's new National Stadium, foreground, is seen under construction in Tokyo. AP

over its price tag. A new and cheaper plan was unveiled later that year.

More embarrassment followed when the original Games logo was scrapped following allegations of plagiarism.

But the focus on Monday was on building enthusiasm for Tokyo's hosting of the Games.

Surfing debut

Other events held across Japan included a 1,000-kilometre running and cycling relay from the northern prefecture of Aomori to Tokyo.

The route took in areas hit by the deadly 2011 tsunami and the event featured 2000 Sydney Olympics marathon champion Naoko Takahashi at the start.

A surfing exhibition by pros took place at the Tsurigasaki beach venue in Chiba – an hour outside Tokyo –

Teleworking can be one solution to heavy traffic congestion in Tokyo

TELEWORK CAMPAIGN OFFICIAL

where the sport will make its Olympic debut in 2020.

Japan also observed a national exercise to encourage tens of thousands of commuters to work from home, in a bid to ease rail and road congestion before the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and reform the country's workaholic culture.

About a quarter of the population of 127 million live in Tokyo and surrounding prefectures.

The congested megalopolis thus faces a serious need to ease rush-hour crowds to accommodate tourists for the Olympics.

The public-private "Tele-work Day" involved some

60,000 workers at more than 900 companies, organisations and government offices, according to the Internal Affairs Ministry.

They worked from home, skipping their usual habit of commuting in notoriously packed trains or driving personal cars to the office.

The Ministry had no figures to break down participation by region but most of those involved are believed to be in Tokyo.

The idea followed a teleworking effort at the time of the 2012 London Olympics. Japan will repeat the exercise on the same date over the next two years in the run-up to the opening of the Summer Games on July 24, 2020.

The plan is also part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's efforts to rethink Japan's workaholic tradition, where mostly male workers are routinely expected to spend long hours in the office and have little time with their families.

Lifestyle changes

The government earlier this year unveiled its first-ever initiative to limit overtime in a bid to tackle "karoshi", or death from overwork. It hopes that once the Olympics are over, more people will telecommute as a lasting legacy.

"Teleworking can be one solution" to heavy traffic congestion in the Tokyo metropolitan area, said a government official in charge of the campaign.

"Some people may say they felt some effect (on reducing congestion) this morning, while others say they felt no difference."

"This is a small start but we'd like it to trigger companies as well as workers to start thinking about a different work style," he said.

A mammoth rescue

Sri Lankan Navy saves two elephants adrift in the ocean



In safe hands: Sri Lankan Navy men guide elephants back to land on Sunday. SRI LANKAN NAVY/AFP

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday rescued two apparently distressed elephants off the island's east coast, a fortnight after personnel mounted a similar operation to save an elephant in the region. Divers used ropes and naval boats to tow the two young elephants back to the shore, Navy sources said.

Images of the rescue efforts shared by the Navy showed the two elephants

keeping their trunks above water as they tried to stay afloat. All through the operation the elephants stayed beside each other in the ocean.

Affected by drought

"It appears that the elephants in that region have been affected badly by the prolonged drought being experienced in the north and east. They maybe wandering in search of water," navy spokesman Chaminda Walakuluge told *The Hindu*

on Monday. Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority north and east have been hit by a drought for nearly a year, severely impacting the livelihoods of farmers in the region. Animals too have possibly been affected, authorities said.

According to government estimates, Sri Lanka has over 7,000 elephants in the wild, with thousands in the forest areas adjoining the island's North Central and Eastern Provinces.

'BillionAbles' app tracks disabled-friendly spaces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi-based start-up has launched a smartphone app that can assist people with special needs to find disabled-friendly restaurants, tourist locations and other public places across India.

"Currently, a lot of organisations in India provide skill-based training, conduct accessible tours, run accessible cabs, and provide facilities like ramps and washrooms, but this information is not compiled and listed anywhere," he said.

he suffered a spinal cord injury at the age of 19. "Over the years, I have struggled to find an inclusive environment – whether it is a workplace or public place," Mr. Garg said.

Users can filter the search results on the basis of features such as step-free access, Braille and sign language availability or gluten-free food availability.

"Currently, we have over 150 verified listings from Delhi NCR, Goa and Rajasthan," Mr. Garg said.

Ancient rock inscription discovered

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
BEIJING

An ancient rock inscription and stone monument dating back 900 years have been discovered on a mountain in China's Hebei province, local media reported on Monday.

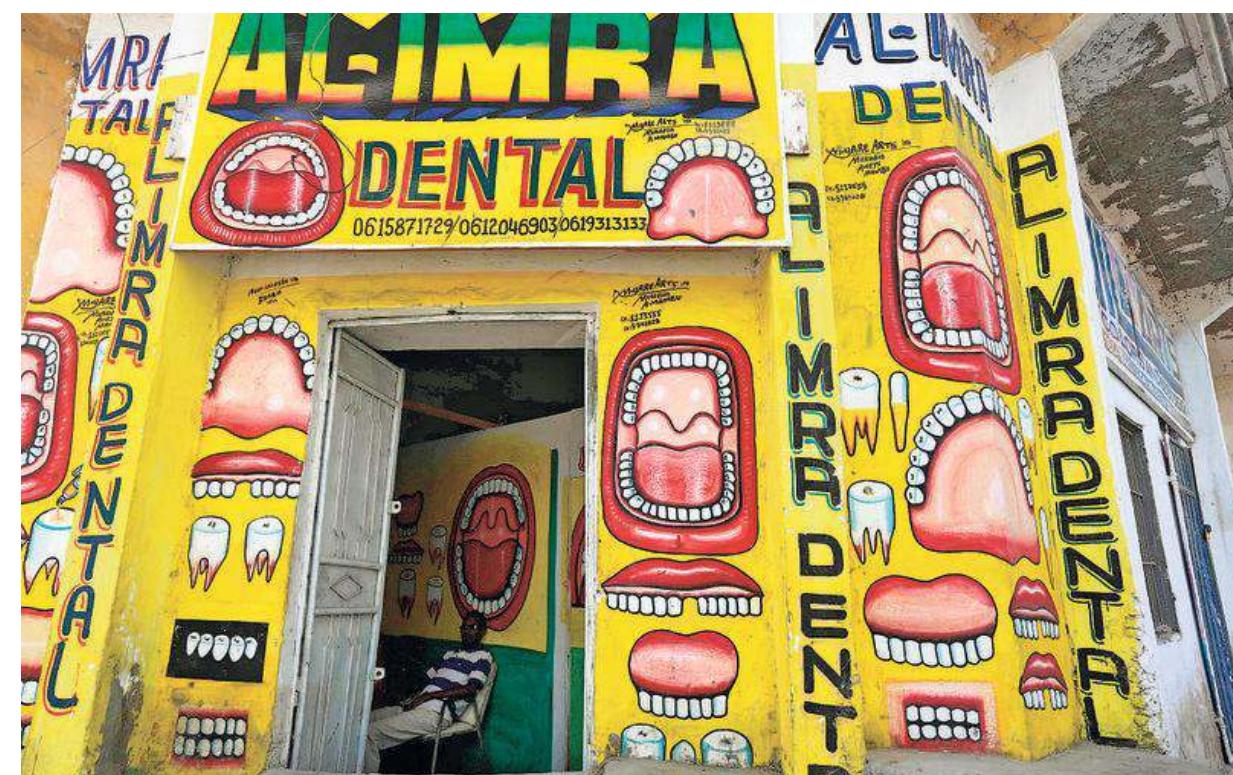
The inscription, made of over 130 Chinese characters, was carved on a piece of smooth stone, Xinhua news agency quoted local cultural heritage administration as saying.

The stone monument was underneath the inscription, on which about 300 Chinese characters were carved, it said.

Both the inscription and the monument recorded the renovation of the Chouchuan Temple during the Song Dynasty.

The new discovery offers valuable materials to study the history of Chouchuan Temple and other famous temples.

Happy teeth



Eye-catching clinic: Somali dentist Hassan Ali, 35, sits inside his dental clinic with murals painted on the walls in the Somalian capital of Mogadishu. The murals are made by Somali artist Muawiyeh Hussein Sidow, whose prolific work is a colourful contrast to the airbrushed art of big businesses. REUTERS

Keeping safe while cruising in the Arctic

A ship that normally resupplies scientific bases in Antarctica will escort luxury liner *Crystal Serenity*

HENRY FOUNTAIN

When the *Crystal Serenity*, a 1,000-passenger luxury liner, sails in August on a month-long Arctic cruise through the Northwest Passage, it will have a far more utilitarian escort: a British supply ship.

The *Ernest Shackleton*, which normally resupplies scientific bases in Antarctica, will help with the logistics of shore excursions along the route from Alaska to New York through Canada's Arctic Archipelago.

But the escort ship will also be there should the *Serenity* become stuck in ice or something else goes wrong. The *Shackleton* can manoeuvre through ice and will be carrying emergency water and rations for the liner's passengers and 600 crew members, oil spill con-

tainment gear and a couple of helicopters.

As global warming reduces the extent of sea ice in the Arctic, more ships – cargo carriers as well as liners like the *Serenity* taking tourists to see the region's natural beauty – will be plying far northern waters. Experts in maritime safety say that raises concerns about what will happen when something inevitably goes wrong.

"It's what keeps us up at night," said Amy A. Merten, who works on maritime response issues at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Although nations with Arctic lands, including the United States, have agreed to assist each other in the event of disaster, there is very little emergency infrastructure in either U.S. or Canadian Arc-

In this photo dated August 21, 2016, a man stands on the shore of the Bering Sea to watch the *Crystal Serenity*. AP

tic waters, or in Russia along what is known as the Northern Sea Route.

What keeps Ms. Merten and other experts on edge is the possibility that a ship could have a problem that would require an extensive search-and-rescue operation.

There are relatively few

incident involving a cruise ship in recent years, a smaller liner, the *Explorer*, sank off the Antarctic Peninsula in 2007 after striking an iceberg. Fortunately several other ships were not very far from the stricken ship, and the 150 passengers and crew were rescued after five hours in lifeboats.

Commercial ships in northern waters have occasionally run into trouble, sometimes with deadly results. In December 2004, the *Selendang Ayu*, a 740-foot Malaysian ship carrying soybeans and more than 1,000 tons of fuel oil, suffered an engine failure, drifted and broke apart in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. Six crew members died when a Coast Guard helicopter that had just picked them up was swamped by a wave. NYT

Mexican family firm makes boxing gloves for legends

Cleto Reyes follows the old-fashioned way of handcrafting gear

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MEXICO CITY

In a boxing world often dominated by promoters, self-promoters and glitz, Alberto Reyes likes to do things the old-fashioned way: his company still makes gloves by hand, just as it did for Muhammad Ali.

The Mexican craftsman is the owner of Cleto Reyes boxing gloves, a family firm founded by his late father in the 1940s whose clients have included such legends as Ali, Manny Pacquiao and even the fictional Rocky Balboa.

Reyes likes to tell the story of the best publicity his company ever received, when it made the gloves for one of Ali's last fights: his 1978 match to reclaim his heavyweight title from Leon Spinks.

Free publicity

It was the kind of free advertising that is hard to imagine in this age of megabouts like next month's "Money Fight" between boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. and mixed martial artist Conor McGregor.

"They had a contract with a different company to supply the gloves, but Ali said, 'I don't fight if it's not with Cleto gloves,'" Mr. Reyes, 65, said in his Mexico City office.

The fight promoters agreed to let Ali use his favourite gloves, on one condition, Mr. Reyes said: he had to put tape over the label. But once inside the ring, the fighter known as "The Greatest" asked his trainer, Angelo Dundee, to take off the tape.

The photo of a sweat-drenched Ali fending off a punishing swing from Spinks – the name "Cleto Reyes" visibly stamped on his glove – was published around the world after the former champ, then aged 36, seized back the heavyweight title belt from his 25-year-old opponent. That particular pair of



Fists of fury: Alberto Reyes, whose father Cleto Reyes founded the iconic Mexican boxing gloves factory, poses against a wall packed with autographed gloves. AFP

gloves was made by long-time Cleto Reyes employee Ruben Albaran, today aged 64. "It was one of the first pairs I made," he said at one of the company's two factories on the outskirts of Mexico City.

"When I saw the fight, I was so excited for the company. Then I saw the picture in the newspaper."

Mr. Albaran grew up with dreams of becoming a boxer himself, but when he was 15 years old, his father told him he was crazy, he said. So he went for the next best thing, in his eyes: a job making gloves at Cleto Reyes.

Word spread from one boxer to another that Cleto Reyes made an exceptional pair of gloves.

And the list of famous clients grew: Joe Louis, George Foreman, Sugar Ray Leonard, Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, Lennox Lewis, Oscar De La Hoya... even Sylvester Stallone as *Rocky*.

Pride and craft

Alberto Reyes says the company has never paid a fighter to wear its gloves. "They use them because they feel safe, because they know they're going to score a knockout," he said.

Cleto Reyes gloves are a source of pride in Mexico. The firm's artisans start by selecting the best-quality leather. Then they painstakingly cut it, sew it and stuff it with foam and horsehair. It is an old-school exercise in craft, using old-fashioned sewing machines. A professional pair of Cleto Reyes gloves costs \$75 (R4,800).

Mr. Reyes was traumatised

**JNU: row over battle tank**

Teachers and students reject V-C Jagadesh Kumar's idea to instal battle tank on campus [Page 2](#)

**Rewari girls protest again**

Girls from Rewari's Gothra Tappa Dahina resort to agitation again to protest against staff crunch [Page 3](#)

**AAP launches GST vans**

Officials of Trade and Taxes dept will help traders sort through confusions about new tax regime [Page 4](#)

**Art sans labels**

Veteran actor Tom Alter speaks about Rumi's poetry and dance, and much more [Page 5](#)

IN BRIEF**Man attacked over parked scooter**

NEW DELHI
The 28-year-old son of a Delhi Police head constable was knifed by four persons on Sunday evening in south Delhi's Lado Sarai in an alleged case of road rage. The police have registered a case and are looking for the accused, who fled from the spot. Prince Tewatia, an employee with a call centre in Gurugram and resident of Saidulajab, was on his way home around 8 p.m. with his friend and colleague Paras Sharma when the incident happened.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 3](#)

Sharp rise in dengue, chikungunya cases

NEW DELHI
There has been a steep rise in the incidence of vector-borne diseases in Delhi, with 57 new cases of dengue being reported this month alone. Currently, Delhi has 128 registered cases of malaria, 98 cases of dengue and 127 of chikungunya, says data released by the municipal corporations. Vector-borne diseases have also been reported from outside the city. While 43 dengue cases were reported this month, 15 were recorded in June.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 2](#)

AAP govt imposes restrictions on babus

NEW DELHI
A standing order by the Delhi government has called for seeming restrictions on how the Capital's bureaucracy functioned as it demanded that all officers, including the Chief Secretary, not take any decision without the approval of Ministers. The standing order issued by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and PWD Minister Satyendra Jain said views of the department on any issue cannot be communicated without the nod of the Minister-in-charge.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 4](#)

Out for a walk, man falls to death in open drain

Victim a Mayur Vihar resident; kin blame civic agency for negligence, say hospital denied treatment

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 55-year-old businessman, who was out for a walk, died after he fell into an uncovered drain outside a park in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar on Sunday.

The accident was reported around 4 p.m. when Anil Kumar Gupta was leaving the DDA park after completing his routine daily walk. His nephew Deepak told *The Hindu* that he was at Mr. Gupta's shop when he was informed about the fall.

Breathing when pulled out
"A fruit vendor told me that he had heard my uncle scream for help. He was breathing when some passersby managed to pull him out. We rushed him to a private hospital nearby, which denied him treatment. We then took him to another hospital in Noida where he was declared brought dead," said Deepak.

Though the victim is believed to have drowned, a post-mortem examination was conducted on Monday.

His family and neighbours, however, have blamed the Public Works Department (PWD) for failing to cover the drain that flows under a pavement next to the park.

Mr. Gupta's wife, Manju, seconded her nephew's allegations about the hospital refusing treatment. She and Lakshmi, the sister of the deceased, blamed the civic authorities for the death while demanding punishment for those involved.

According to Lakshmi, Mr. Gupta had left home on his two-wheeler, which he parked outside. He was on his way out from the park when he lost his footing and fell into the drain. Those around the park said accumulated water near the exit had made the surface slippery.

Conspiracy not ruled out

The police, meanwhile, said that while there were no specific allegations about the in-



Tragic incident: Children at the spot outside the DDA park where businessman Anil Kumar Gupta (left) lost his footing on Sunday evening. V. SUDESHAN



SOUMYA PILLAI
NEW DELHI

cident being a homicide, the probe is still on in the case. So far, only inquest proceedings have been initiated.

"If the post-mortem exam establishes injuries prior to death, we may investigate it as a murder or death by negligence," said a senior police officer.

The police, however, have not ruled out a conspiracy yet.

Mr. Gupta, who lived in a DDA flat near the spot, dealt in car accessories and had recently ventured into the garments business. He is survived by his wife and two sons who live in London and Germany.

(PWD), and the three municipal corporations have continued repairs, leaving the roads dug up. "They take their time to fill these potholes, or don't do it at all. Rain water fills them up, putting lives at risk," said officials.

Last year, a 45-year-old man was run over by a tanker in south Delhi's Vasant Kunj after his motorcycle went into a pothole concealed by rain water. The police said that Praveen Kumar could not gauge the depth of the pothole and lost balance.

Emergency repairs: PWD

A PWD official, however, said that though most repairs are stopped before

the monsoon, emergency repairs cannot be avoided. He claimed that such work is carried out on priority basis with the craters being filled up. He added that warning signs are put up at least 500 metres before the

repair site to ensure commuters are safe. The area is taped as an added precaution, the official said.

"It is impossible to completely avoid repairs. For instance, there are times when sewage pipes burst.

However, we take extra care during the monsoon," the official said.

Delhiites unhappy

Residents, meanwhile, say that apart from road repairs, the authorities have also delayed desilting work in many parts of the city. In several areas, silt scooped out of the drains and sewers is lying along the roads. The rain only makes the situation worse.

"The silt should have been cleared before the first rain, but the civic bodies cleaned the drain a few days back. Muck is still lying along the road. The entire area stinks when it rains," said Kumar Adhiyan, who lives in New Ashok Nagar.

Pictorial warnings on drunk driving threaten to take fizz out of liquor bottles

FSSAI is studying global practices regarding messages on dangers of alcohol consumption

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Soon, liquor bottles in the country may carry pictorial messages warning people against the hazards of alcohol and the dangers of drunk driving. The move comes after a Delhi-based NGO brought the matter to the notice of the judiciary.

Under consideration
NGO Community Against Drunken Driving (CADD) had filed a public interest litigation in the Delhi High Court seeking pictorial warnings about drunk driving on all alcohol bottles, be it Indian or Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL).

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which is finalising standards for alcoholic beverages, is also studying global practices regarding warnings and messages about drunk driving, an official said.

"We are examining international practices with regard to pictorial warnings on drunk driving and alcohol consumption. After this, we will finalise recommendations for including these warnings in regulations for alcoholic beverages, which are being finalised," said a senior FSSAI official.



Not so bubbly: The move comes after a Delhi-based NGO, in a bid to reduce drunk driving accidents, filed a plea seeking pictorial warnings on all alcohol bottles. FILE PHOTO

can be used on bottles. Pictorial warnings are important as they are not affected by language barrier and can be understood by those who can't read or write," said Prince Singhal, CADD founder.

According to him, pictorial messages will serve as a reminder to consumers about the hazards of drunk driving, which can help reduce accidents.

As many as 1,46,000 people die in the country each year, of which 1,00,000 are due to drunk driving, Mr. Singhal claimed. He added

that drunk driving was responsible for over 72% of fatal accidents.

"Countries that reduced drunk driving accidents and fatalities through introduction of such warnings include the US, Kenya, South Africa, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Taiwan, Mexico, and Turkey. The suggested pictorial design and message is 'Alcohol consumption is injurious to health. Drinking and driving may lead to accident and death. Don't drink and drive,'" Mr. Singhal added.

Fire at Lok Nayak Bhawan

26 fire tenders rushed to spot; flames doused after two hours

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A major fire broke out on the fourth floor of Lok Nayak Bhawan, which houses several government offices, on Monday evening. No one was injured, said the police.

Short circuit suspected

The fire, which broke out around 4 p.m., is suspected to have been triggered by a short circuit in an air conditioner inside the office of the Income Tax Settlement Commission, said a senior Fire Department officer. "We received a call at 4:01 p.m. after which 26 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Though the blaze damaged the fourth floor the most, the third and fifth floors were also affected," said the officer, adding that the fire was doused around 6:30 p.m.

Safety issues raised

K. Vishwanathan, who works with the National Commission of Minorities on the fifth floor, said he and around 100 others were safely evacuated from Gate No. 1 of the premises, which has two other exits. "Thick smoke had filled our floor. Thankfully, no one was hurt," he said.

Expressing concern over safety, Mr. Vishwanathan alleged that this was the third time a fire had broken out in the 32 years he had been working here. "This building is not safe in case of natural



Engulfed in smoke: The Fire Department received a call about the blaze at 4 p.m. on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

calamities as well," he alleged.

Located in Khan Market, Lok Nayak Bhawan has offices of the Enforcement Dir-

Didn't ask Jethmalani to 'insult' Jaitley: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal told the Delhi High Court on Monday that he had not given his counsel Ram Jethmalani any instructions to use objectionable remarks against Union Minister Arun Jaitley in a defamation case filed by the latter.

'No instruction issued'

The Aam Aadmi Party chief also said that he had written to Mr. Jethmalani to refute his claim that objectionable words were used in the May 17 proceedings before the Joint Registrar as per his instructions.

In an affidavit, Mr. Kejriwal said it was "inconceivable that he would even think of instructing the senior counsel to use such objectionable words". The Chief Minister denied Mr. Jaitley's charge that questions with derogatory remarks were "clearly designed to insult and/or annoy" him. He added that he had instructed his counsel on record, Anupam Srivastava, to remind Mr. Jethmalani that no such instructions were issued during his meeting with him.

Mr. Jethmalani, during the May 17 proceedings, had claimed that the words he used were in pursuance to instructions received from the AAP supremo.

IN BRIEF



Millennium Bus Depot: NGT asks DDA for report

NEW DELHI The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the DDA to file a compliance report with regard to the Supreme Court order on change of land use of Millennium Bus Depot site on Yamuna floodplains. Advocate Kush Sharma, appearing for the DDA, said the site for the bus depot fell in the zone 'O', which demarcated areas on water bodies where construction was prohibited. The Tribunal asked the DDA to file a reply within a week. PTI

Museum to put up reserve artefacts for show

NEW DELHI The National Museum will resurrect its 2 lakh reserve of artefacts and put them on display for public on its premises, a senior official said. "We have decided to put objects from our reserve on display that we usually do not show. There are nearly 2 lakh objects in reserve, besides the 7,000-8,000 objects that are on display," Director General of National Museum B.R. Mani said. PTI

Quick access to medical facilities for elderly

NEW DELHI Beneficiaries of the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) aged 80 and above will no longer need to stand in queues for consulting doctors at CGHS dispensaries. Doctors will enquire about the patient's condition over phone or visit his/her home if it is located within 5 km of the CGHS centre. STAFF REPORTER

BJP 'saffronising' education: AAP

Party demands changes in curricula

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday lashed out at the BJP and the RSS for their alleged attempt to saffronise the education system in the country by suggesting religious overtones in the curricula of schools and colleges.

Referring to a news report which claimed that the RSS-affiliated Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyasthe Nyas, headed by Dina Nath Batra, had written to the NCERT, seeking changes in the contents of textbooks, it alleged that India's composite culture was under an attack from the Sangh Parivar.

'Bigoted suggestions' The party leaders advised the BJP to first address the fundamental problems of the sector.

"The multicultural, multilingual identity of our country is being attacked by the Sangh Parivar as it tries to homogenise the society by meddling with education," said AAP leader Atishi

JNU starts building new hostel

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Monday began work on building a new hostel on the campus, which will accommodate over 400 students. The building has been named "Barak Hostel" after the Barak river in Assam.

Laying the foundation stone, Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh said 75% of the rooms in the hostel would be reserved for students from the Northeast.

"The idea behind having the hostel is to bring the beauty, richness and wisdom of the Northeast to the university campus," Mr. Singh said.

The hostel will be built at ₹29 crore, and will have five floors.

Delhi records sharp rise in dengue, chikungunya cases

Doctors say numbers may swell further; residents advised to guard against fever

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI There has been a steep rise in the incidence of vector-borne diseases in the Capital, with 57 new cases of dengue being reported this month alone. Currently, Delhi has 128 registered cases of malaria, 98 cases of dengue and 127 of chikungunya, data released by the municipal corporations show.

Vector-borne diseases have also been reported from outside the city. While 43 cases of dengue have been reported this month, 15 cases were recorded in June.

Early onset

Cases of all three vector-borne diseases have been reported much earlier this time, which doctors have attributed to the early arrival of the monsoon.

Authorities fear that the number of cases may rise further, as the season for vector-borne diseases begins from mid-July and generally lasts till November-end.

Viral fever symptoms

Besides vector-borne diseases, the city is reeling under a viral fever outbreak. The symptoms are headache, fatigue, sore throat, running nose, nasal stuffiness and red eyes.

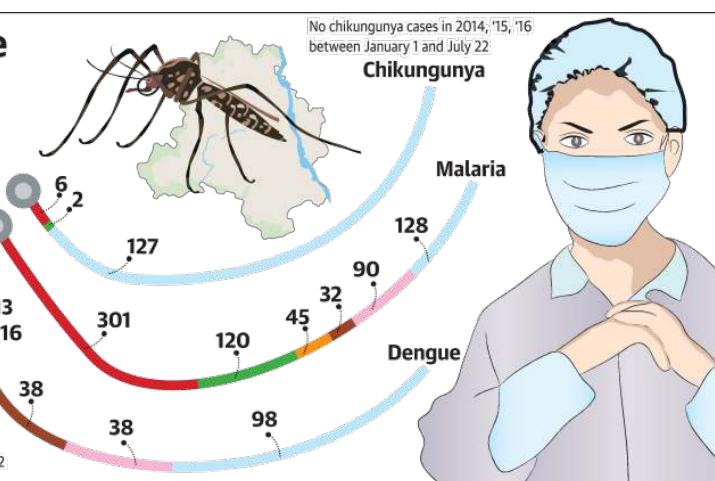
Vomiting and diarrhoea may be present in some cases.

D. Rajesh Bhudiraja, Internal Medicine, Asian Institute of Medical Sciences, says, "Viral fever usually subsides after three days, but this time we are witnessing patients with consistent

No escape

With the arrival of the monsoon, vector-borne diseases are back in the city

Figures for January 1-July 22



*Figures for January 1-July 22

fever for more than three days."

Dengue and chikungunya are caused by the *aedes aegypti* mosquito, which breeds in clear water.

The anopheles mosquito, which causes malaria, can breed in both fresh and muddy water.

Mosquito breeding

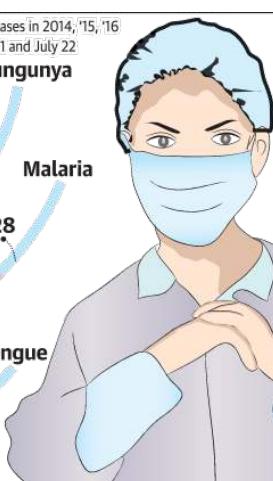
Breeding of mosquitoes has been reported at 69,057 households in Delhi, according to the report.

The Delhi government had on June 23 issued instructions to State-run and private hospitals and nursing homes to increase their bed capacity by up to 20% for the next six months to deal with a possible outbreak of dengue and chikungunya.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar allowed the AAP government to file a comprehensive report after its counsel sought more time.

The matter is fixed for hearing on August 18.

Maintain cleanliness The green panel had earlier directed the civic bodies to clean and



List steps taken to fight diseases: NGT

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday granted a week to the Delhi government to file a compliance report on the steps taken by it to tackle deadly diseases like dengue and chikungunya.

The Bench was hearing a petition by a former scientist of the Central Pollution Control Board, Mahendra Pandey, for issuance of directions and setting up of panels to implement "precautionary, preventive and curative actions" to ensure that Delhi residents were not exposed to vector-borne diseases.

The plea had also wanted authorities to be directed not to undertake outdoor thermal fogging to control dengue, alleging it caused air pollution.

maintain water bodies to prevent them from becoming breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

The Bench was hearing a petition by a former scientist of the Central Pollution Control Board, Mahendra Pandey, for issuance of directions and setting up of panels to implement "precautionary, preventive and curative actions" to ensure that Delhi residents were not exposed to vector-borne diseases.

The plea had also wanted authorities to be directed not to undertake outdoor thermal fogging to control dengue, alleging it caused air pollution.

Teachers flag concerns over budgets cuts in education

Seek revised pay scales, regularisation of contractual staff

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

College and university teachers from across the country protested at Jantar Mantar on Monday, raising concerns over low budget allocation in the education sector.

The protest was organised by the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisations (AIFUCTO). Appealing to the Centre, the body demanded the implementation of the 7th UGC pay revision recommendations after consultation with it and other teachers' bodies.

It also demanded the regularisation of temporary and contractual teachers, introduction of pay scales and service conditions for part-time and ad hoc teachers, and filling up of vacancies.

'Scrap API'

Members of the AIFUCTO also demanded scrapping of the Academic Performance Index (API) system, which was introduced by the University Grants Commission to assess teachers before their promotions are granted.

A statement issued by the



Up in arms: Teachers from across the country protest at Jantar Mantar on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

AIFUCTO read, "All Central government employees, except university and college teachers, are getting their revised pay scales and allowances. Service conditions and terms of career advancement in the teaching profession are becoming stiffer by the day."

Seeking immediate relief, the statement further read, "The time has come when, as educated minds of the society, we rise up against the autocratic and anti-teachers/anti-education activities of the government."

The members also protested against the new pension scheme introduced for those appointed after 2004, which does not guarantee any clear amount to them after retirement.

'Excessive centralisation' The AIFUCTO also stated that there had been "blatant attempts to throttle the autonomy of higher education through excessive centralisation" under the garb of reforms.

Members of the Haryana Government Teachers' Association, West Bengal College Teachers' Association, and Rajasthan University and College Teachers' Association participated in the protest.

Briefing for U.K.-bound students on July 27

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The British Council on Thursday will organise its annual pre-departure orientation session for students going to the U.K. for further studies this year.

The session will provide information to students regarding visa, travel and ac-

commodation. The briefing will also include dos and don'ts about student life in the U.K., and will provide candidates an opportunity to meet fellow students.

'Interactive session'

There will also be an interactive session, followed by a talk on "Tier 4 student visa

BITS Pilani holds annual convocation

STAFF REPORTER

PILANI

BITS Pilani organised its annual convocation ceremony on Sunday, during which a total of 1,372 students received their degrees.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award ceremony was also held on the occasion. This year's award in the category "Academic Teaching and Research" was conferred on Govindan Rangarajan, head of Interdisciplinary Research at IISc, Bangalore.

Public figures honoured Harish Bhat, Chairman, Tata Coffee Ltd., was awarded for his contribution in the area of corporate professional management.

Raghul Rajagopal, co-founder and CEO of DATRI, a not-for-profit organisation that works for blood cancer patients, was awarded for his contribution to public life and social entrepreneurship.

The chief guest at the function was Tessy Thomas, scientist at the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

'No infrastructure'

She also alleged that no attention was being paid to the crumbling infrastructure of schools and the falling education standards across the country.

The party, in a Facebook

Bumper to bumper



Chock-a-block: A massive traffic jam was witnessed on Ring Road on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Railways told to boost facilities for disabled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI Treat the differently-abled as the "most treasured" passengers, the Delhi High Court on Monday told the Railways which it blamed for a visually impaired man missing his M.Phil entrance exam as he could not board a reserved coach since it was locked from inside.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C.Hari Shankar noted that the youth tried to reach Delhi on July 3 for the exam to be held on July 5, but could not as he first did not get a confirmed seat.

On July 4, when he arrived at the station, the train was running late. When the Gorakhpur Express finally arrived, he, however, couldn't enter the coach for the differently-abled as it was locked from inside.

DU slammed

Delhi University (DU), too, was ticked off by the Bench for taking an "adversarial stand" in the matter by saying that the man, Vaibhav Shukla, did not seem interested in appearing for the test as he took a train to Delhi on the afternoon of July 5 when the exam was scheduled in the morning of the same day. "It is the Indian Railways which prevented him from taking the exam," the court observed during the hearing of the PIL which it initiated on its own after coming across a news report in the matter.

"You need to do much more," it told the Railways, which claimed it had redesigned 3,200 out of nearly one lakh luggage coaches to be made disabled-friendly.

Placing of coaches

The court also advised the Railways not to put such special coaches at the extreme front or the rear of a train as at smaller stations, these would be outside the platform area, making it difficult for the differently-abled to access them easily.

V-C's battle tank plan backfires; JNUTA, students reject idea

Jagadesh Kumar says he made the request to recognise, respect the sacrifices of university alumni who are in defence services



Gesture for alumni: Reacting to the V-C's request, the JNU Teachers' Association said it was amused by the V-C's earnest desire for a tank on the campus.

"It is surprising that Mr. Kumar can only be inspired to patriotism upon beholding instruments of war. This seems to be only a personal affliction, since the rest of the JNU community does not need these visual aids to feel

love and concern for this land, its environment and all its people, whether in the armed services or elsewhere," said the association.

The V-C, meanwhile, maintained that he had requested for a tank only to recognise and respect the sacrifices of the JNU alumni.

"JNU has been issuing degrees for cadets from all three forces the Army, Navy and Air Force," he said.

On Sunday, speaking at an

event on the campus on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas to mark India's victory in the 1999 conflict with Pakistan, the V-C had requested for a battle tank at JNU so that students can be reminded of the sacrifices and valour of the soldiers".

Tanks not for spectacle' The JNUTA said it hoped Mr. Kumar will understand that developing what he believes is the correct affective attachment towards the Indian Army is not a part of his job description.

"JNU cannot be made into a theatre of war. His statutory role is one of maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the university and of upholding the JNU Act and Statutes," said the association in a statement.

The JNU Students' Union said, "JNU, or for that matter any university, is an institutional space to further develop ideas and deliberate on issues. Army tanks are not for spectacle. Nationalism cannot be infused through beholding instruments of war. The Vice-Chancellor and his idea of a tank in university is not needed to instil patriotism."

Mr. Kumar had mooted the idea in the presence of Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, MoS, External Affairs, General V.K. Singh, Mentor of Veterans India, a body of ex-servicemen, Maj General G.D. Bakshi, and cricketer Gautam Gambhir who had taken part in a *tiranga* march on the JNU campus.

IN BRIEF



Protesting Tamil Nadu farmer attempts suicide

NEW DELHI
A Tamil Nadu farmer protesting at Jantar Mantar on Monday allegedly tried to commit suicide by consuming sleeping pills. However, the police termed it a case of drug overdose. Subramanian of Namakkal district allegedly "attempted suicide due to frustration over lack of response from governments to the agitation". PTI

Man held for carrying bullet in bag at airport

NEW DELHI
A man was on Monday apprehended at the Indira Gandhi International airport here for allegedly carrying a bullet in his baggage, a senior official said. A CISF officer detected a bullet-like object on the x-ray monitor around 4.30 a.m., said the official. A live round of 0.8mm calibre was recovered from the bag of S. Mathur, he said. PTI

Nigerian national held for online fraud

GREATER NOIDA
The Maharashtra Police on Monday arrested a Nigerian national from Noida in an online fraud case. According to Surajpur SHO Manish Saxena, a team of Nashik police raided a house in Delta-2 here and arrested Kinjal Chhibuje. "He has been taken to Maharashtra for further investigation," said Mr. Saxena. PTI

Thief nabbed

VASUNDHARA DUDEJA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Police have arrested a man accused of stealing mobile phones at Central Secretariat metro station. According to the police, a dozen cases of thefts in nearby metro stations have been solved with this arrest.

Mohammad Umar was caught red-handed inside a moving train near Patel Chowk metro station on July 21 while trying to steal a man's phone from his pocket.

The matter was immediately reported by the victim at Central Secretariat station, followed by registration of an FIR and Umar's arrest.

Seven FIRs
Umar purportedly told the police that four FIRs under provisions pertaining to theft had been filed against him at Central Secretariat metro police station and three at Kashmere Gate metro police station.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Metro) Jitendra Mani: "He is an accused in 12 cases. He mostly committed thefts at crowded areas around Kashmere Gate and other stations."

A raid was conducted at his residence and four more mobile phones were recovered. "He used to sell the mobile phones he pick-pocketed to unknown people at railway stations and ISBT claiming he was in desperate need of money," said Mr. Mani.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Public lecture on "Pro-active Foreign Policy of Modi Government" by Prof. Ashwani Mohapatra, JNU at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen Murti House, Teen Murti Marg, 3 p.m.

Talk: Book discussion on "Adi Sankara and other Stories". Author Susan Visvanathan in conversation with Dr. Geeti Sen and Ratna Raman at India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Talk: "Can Asia Change the Climate? Risks, Responses and Leadership for Climate Action" Speaker: Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer, Council on Energy, Environment and Water; Chair: Cmde. Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies, at India Habitat Centre (IHC) 7 p.m.

Dance: Navagraha Charitam - A Kuchipudi dance drama performed by Meenu Thakur at IHC, 7 p.m.

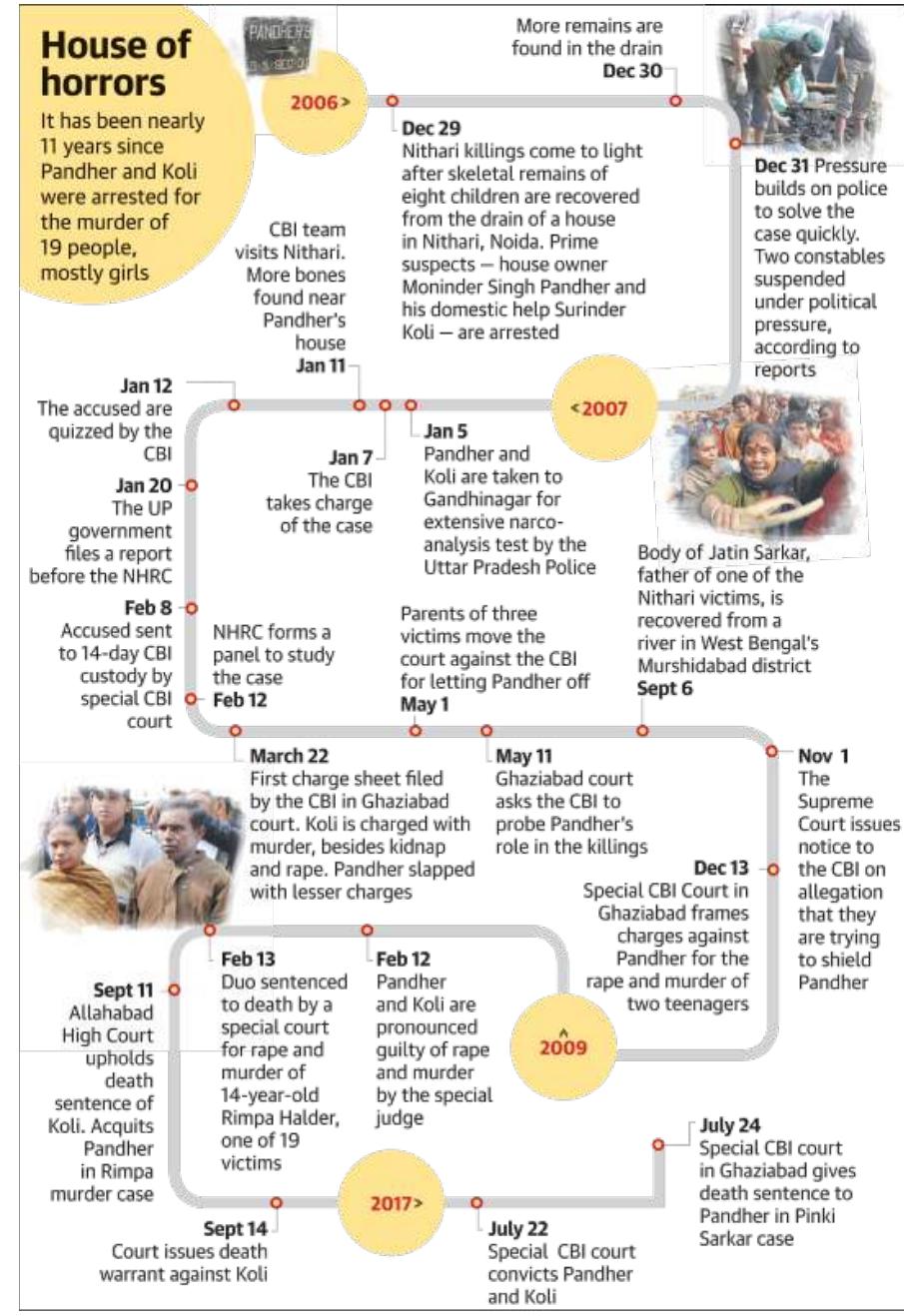
Paintings: "My Perception of Art" solo show of painting by Anup Kumar Singh at Triveni Kala Sangam, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Vivid Expressions - II" recent works by Malvika Jain at IHC, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Screening: "Chroniques D'une Cour De Recherche" French film screening with English subtitles at Alliance Francaise De Delhi, Lodhi Estate, 10 a.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Pandher, Koli stay quiet throughout the hearing

Duo didn't react much after verdict was announced, almost as if they were expecting outcome; Dasna staff asked to keep an eye on businessman



STAFF REPORTER

NOIDA

Businessman Moninder Singh Pandher and domestic help Surinder Koli, convicted in the 2006 Nithari serial rape and murder cases, were produced in special CBI court in Ghaziabad amid heavy police security on Monday. Both stood quietly throughout the hearing.

The special CBI court, which awarded the punishment on Monday in the case concerning 20-year-old Pinki Sarkar, held both guilty and awarded them death penalty in the "rarest of rare" case.

As soon as the sentence was announced, all eyes turned towards Pandher and Koli. However, the duo didn't react much. Almost as if they were expecting the outcome.

Security increased

After the verdict, security in and around the court was beefed up and the convicts taken to Dasna jail in Ghaziabad. Jail sources said Pandher underwent a medical test before being lodged in prison. The jail staff has been asked to keep an eye on him as he looked a bit down after coming from court.

Earlier, Pandher was held guilty in the 2009 Rimpa Halder case and awarded death sentence by the CBI court. He had appealed against the judgment in the Allahabad High Court and was acquitted in 2011.

The CBI had not named Pandher in its original charge sheet in the Pinki



Nithari case: (Above) Surinder Koli and Moninder Singh Pandher being taken to a CBI court in Ghaziabad on Monday. (Below) Residents of Nithari village crowd around a drain near Pandher's house in Noida. Skeletal remains of victims were recovered from the drain. ■ PTI, FILE PHOTO



parents had identified her clothes later. Koli was charged in 19 cases, of which the CBI filed closure reports in three for want of evi-

dence. In the remaining 16 cases against Koli, the CBI court has awarded him death sentence in eight cases.

Realty dealer detained in ITO hit-and-run case

Was alone in car at time of incident

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday detained a property dealer in connection with a hit-and-run case in which a juice vendor was killed while trying to cross the road at ITO two days ago.

The police, who are still questioning Rajeev, said he has admitted to hitting the victim. Contrary to claims by eyewitnesses that a group of youths was in the car, he was alone in the car at the time of incident, said the police.

Tip-off received
The Greater Kailash resident was detained following a tip-off. He had allegedly tried to hide his car at Anand Vihar. The car has been impounded.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (central) M.S. Randhawa said Rajeev hadn't been put under arrest formally as of Monday evening.

Manoj was crossing the road when he was hit by the car, which was allegedly



The accused allegedly tried to hide his car, which has been impounded. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

speeding. He was flung several feet in the air and got impaled on iron grills mounted on the divider.

The police looked at CCTV footage, which failed to capture the car's number plate. The car's flashing lights posed a challenge for investigators, who were able to ascertain that it was white but unable to decipher any other details.

Sources claimed they pieced together all clues, including CCTV footage, to track the escape route. They also sent teams to local repair shops anticipating he would visit one of them.

Man found hanging

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 53-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in south-west Delhi's Dwarka in the early hours of Friday.

A nine-page suicide note, in which he has accused his company of ill-treating him, has been recovered. Vijay Pal Singh was a senior manager with Oriental Insurance Company in Panipat and a resident of Dwarka Sector 19.

Molestation charge
"He has alleged that senior employees misbehaved with him," the police said. When the persons named in the suicide note were questioned, they claimed a female colleague had accused him of molestation.

"They said his junior had claimed he would ask her to spend time with him. He allegedly molested her once, after which his senior told him to behave," said the police. His body was handed over to the family after post-mortem, said the police, adding that further probe is on.

Seven-year-old escapes molester

DCW helps file FIR against accused, gets him arrested

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A seven-year-old managed to escape her molester, thanks to her presence of mind, and reported the incident to her parents on Saturday. A first information report was registered later against the accused with the intervention of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW).

Dropping colleague
"He was going to drop Mr. Sharma home as usual. The duo were at a red light before his house when their bike brushed against a parked scooter," said his friend Rahul Yadav.

According to him, Mr. Tewaria told the accused to park the vehicle on the side and not in the middle of the road.

The matter was immediately reported by the victim at Central Secretariat station, followed by registration of an FIR and Umar's arrest.

A raid was conducted at his residence and four more mobile phones were recovered. "He used to sell the mobile phones he pick-pocketed to unknown people at railway stations and ISBT claiming he was in desperate need of money," said Mr. Mani.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Public lecture on "Pro-active Foreign Policy of Modi Government" by Prof. Ashwani Mohapatra, JNU at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen Murti House, Teen Murti Marg, 3 p.m.

Talk: Book discussion on "Adi Sankara and other Stories". Author Susan Visvanathan in conversation with Dr. Geeti Sen and Ratna Raman at India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Talk: "Can Asia Change the Climate? Risks, Responses and Leadership for Climate Action" Speaker: Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer, Council on Energy, Environment and Water; Chair: Cmde. Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies, at India Habitat Centre (IHC) 7 p.m.

Dance: Navagraha Charitam - A Kuchipudi dance drama performed by Meenu Thakur at IHC, 7 p.m.

Paintings: "My Perception of Art" solo show of painting by Anup Kumar Singh at Triveni Kala Sangam, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Vivid Expressions - II" recent works by Malvika Jain at IHC, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Screening: "Chroniques D'une Cour De Recherche" French film screening with English subtitles at Alliance Francaise De Delhi, Lodhi Estate, 10 a.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Plea by Sunanda's son: Swamy's reply sought

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday expressed concern over failure of the police to file a charge sheet in the Sunanda Pushkar case even after three-and-a-half years.

The oral observation by a Bench of Justices G. S. Sistani and Chander Shekhar came as it sought response of the Delhi Police and BJP

side the house and struck a conversation about her relationship with her parents, including what all she shared with them. She was then made to sit on a chair, where he molested her. He even offered her ₹5 to stay quiet about the incident.

Washroom excuse
Realising that his intentions were not good, the girl fled on the pretext of going to the washroom at her house. She narrated the incident to her parents as soon as she reached home and they called up the DCW helpline.

A team from the DCW got

the accused arrested after filing an FIR under Indian Penal Code section 354 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Good touch, bad touch
Urging parents and teachers to educate their children about good and bad touch, and also encourage children to share such incidents with adults, DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal said, "A huge tragedy was averted due to the little girl's presence of mind and courage. Sharing such information can help prevent many more incidents."

Bench asked the police to make their stand clear by August 1 and refused to pass any restraining order against Dr. Swamy. "We thought the son would be more keen to know who is the person who killed his mother. Here is an opportunity to say why the charge sheet was not filed in the matter for three-and-a-half years. It is a matter of concern," the Bench said.

Mr. Menon has also ques-

tioned Dr. Swamy's locus in seeking such a probe, alleging that he was doing it only for publicity. The

girl Subramanian Swamy on a plea moved by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's stepson Shiv Menon seeking his impleadment in Dr. Swamy's petition for a court-monitored CBI-led SIT probe into Ms. Pushkar's death.

Mr. Menon has also ques-

tioned Dr. Swamy's locus in seeking such a probe, alleging that he was doing it only for publicity. The

Bench asked the police to make their stand clear by August 1 and refused to pass any restraining order against Dr. Swamy. "We thought the son would be more keen to know who is the person who killed his mother. Here is an opportunity to say why the charge sheet was not filed in the matter for three-and-a-half years. It is a matter of concern," the Bench said.

School principal
Village sarpanch Suresh Chauhan said the school was upgraded in May but had just four teachers for the senior wing and a regular school principal was yet to be appointed.

"Before the school was upgraded, there were eight

teachers for the senior wing, from Class VI to Class X, against the sanctioned posts of 21 teachers. The number of teachers has gone down after the upgrade. Only four teachers are left for the senior wing. Haryana Education Minister Ram Bilas Sharma had announced appointment of a principal with immediate effect, but too has not happened so far," claimed Mr. Chauhan.

The girls felt their studies were adversely impacted due to acute staff crunch and sat on a dharna on Monday morning. But the

native villagers, and after some of the girls were hospitalised due to dehydration, Mr. Sharma had in a press conference in Chandigarh on May 17 announced appointment of a school principal with immediate effect and its upgrading.

Additional Chief Secretary (Education) P.K. Das said he had not received any report on the recent dharna and could not comment on the issue.

Transfers underway

However, he added, that annual teacher transfers were underway and the school would get a principal on a regular basis when transfers for school principals, Post-Graduate Teachers and Junior Basic Trained teachers were taken up in the second phase starting July 28. In the first phase, Trained Graduate Teachers, headmasters and elementary school headmasters were being transferred, he said.

Mr. Das added that with the number of teachers being the same and several schools being upgraded, teachers would be deployed based on availability.

local administration intervened soon and promised to resolve the matter. "Following this assurance, the girls decided to suspend the agitation," said Mr. Chauhan.

Earlier protest

IN BRIEF



Manoj Kumar

Khattar inaugurates eight-lane flyover

GURUGRAM
Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday inaugurated the eight-lane flyover at Hero Honda Chowk on the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the people in the area. The flyover was partially opened in March this year. The flyover is expected to ease traffic congestion on NH-8. Now, vehicles going towards Sector 10, Kadipur, Basai, Jhajjar and Sultanpur need not travel to Kherki Daula toll plaza to take U-turn now. STAFF REPORTER

Delhi BJP unit to plant one million saplings

NEW DELHI
Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari on Monday announced a mega tree plantation drive, wherein one million saplings will be planted in the city during a week-long campaign starting August 15. All members of the party, and 35 other organisations will participate in the drive, which will end on August 22, he said. "Responsibility of district and ward-level workers will be fixed for success of the campaign," he said. PTI

AAP govt launches 'GST help' vans

Officials of Trade and Taxes Dept will help traders sort out any confusion about new tax regime

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday launched a fleet of mobile squads that will help spread awareness and address doubts about the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to traders in markets across the city.

Six GST help vans were flagged off by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia.

He said that the vans would reach out to traders to address their issues regarding the new tax regime, which was rolled out on July 1.

Officials from the Delhi government's Department of Trade and Taxes will be in the vans in order to answer questions from the traders.

Connaught Place, Janpath, Ajmeri Gate, Chandni Chowk, Inderlok, Shastri Nagar, Tilak

C There is confusion among small traders about GST... so our officers will visit the traders, make announcements and ask about their problems. It will be a two-way communication

MANISH SISODIA
Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister



Information on the move: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia flags off GST awareness vans from the Delhi Secretariat on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Nagar, Dwarka, Najafgarh, Mangolpuri and Nangloi will be covered by the vans.

The vans will be stocked with pamphlets and booklets about how traders can register on the GST portal and other helpful tips.

Apart from the vans, the government has also set up a Suvidha Kendra at the headquarters of the Tax Department as well as helpdesks

at some markets.

Will help with GST portal

"There is confusion among small traders about GST. So far, there hasn't been direct communication with them. Now, they have had almost a month of experience, so our officers will visit the traders, make announcements and ask about their problems. It will be a two-way communication," said Mr. Sisodia, after the launch.

So far, about 3.2 lakh traders have signed up on the GST portal, according to government officials.

While GST was implemented from July 1, the traders are still clearing their VAT payments for the month of June. They will have till August 18 to pay GST through the new portal.

Cong plans protest week against GST

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi unit of the Congress will be protesting against the Centre's implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) through a week of demonstrations across 42 markets in the Capital starting July 29, the party said on Monday.

Delhi Congress chief Ajay Maken said that the party would intensify its protests against what it termed the "wrong" implementation of GST, which had affected small and medium-sized traders as well as the public.

He reiterated the Congress' stand that the BJP government's version of GST had adversely impacted traders and consumers, with high tax slabs increasing the burden on the general public.

Mr. Maken said that the new tax regime had made hospital care, education and construction more expensive. Protests will be held at Loni Road's timber market, Gandhi Nagar's cloth market and Lajpat Nagar Central Market.

Clean up Azadpur mandi: BJP to govt

Vijender Gupta says market in 'chaos'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Vijender Gupta on Monday demanded that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal take immediate remedial steps to "bring order to the completely chaotic" Azadpur fruits and vegetable wholesale market.

Mr. Gupta joined a dharna at the mandi against what he alleged was "corruption and anarchy" in addition to "filth all around".

Market panel

"Due to the non-inclusion of elected representatives in the market committee, the bureaucracy has become irresponsible leading to total mismanagement. We demand that elected representatives be included in the



No oversight: BJP leader Vijender Gupta said that the market committee has mismanaged the mandi. ■ FILE PHOTO

'Govt betrayed us, is spreading rumours'

Anganwadi workers march to Jantar Mantar, demand fresh agreement for pay hike

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of Anganwadi workers and helpers marched to Jantar Mantar from Ramila Maidan on Monday as their protest for higher pay entered the 27th day.

Agitating under the leadership of Delhi State Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union (DSAWHU), the protesters criticised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for not implementing the agreement they had in 2015.

'Govt betrayed us'
DSAWHU demanded a fresh agreement stating a hike in pay, which would fall under the minimum wages category, for the anganwadi workers and helpers.

Accusing the Delhi govern-

ment of not speaking to the union members and spreading rumours, Shivani Kaul, the president of DSAWHU, said: "In 2015, we had been promised in a legally binding agreement that the honorarium will be increased. However, the government betrayed us and refused to implement this agreement even though we went to the Delhi Secretariat to remind them about this agreement. This time the government refused to even talk to the union members and indulged in all kinds of activities to break the strike by conjuring up imaginary unions."

Raising questions over the Lieutenant-Governor's role in the issue, Ms. Kaul said: "Did the (Arvind) Kejriwal government try to end the strike by all

means," added Ms. Kaul.

The union members also demanded an assurance from the government that none of the workers involved in the strike will be terminated from work on account of participation in the agitation. They also alleged that AAP members threatened workers and helpers in areas like Burari and Jagarpura before the rally.

"We can end the strike today itself if the government is ready to conclude a written agreement with us promising the increment in honorarium, the amount of increase, the date from which the increment will be in force and also promising that no worker on strike will be victimised now or later," said Virshali, spokesperson of DSAWHU.

"The strike cannot be discontinued based on Kejriwal's Twitter activism or a press statement released by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia considering the same government tried to end the strike by all

means," added Ms. Kaul. The union members also demanded an assurance from the government that none of the workers involved in the strike will be terminated from work on account of participation in the agitation. They also alleged that AAP members threatened workers and helpers in areas like Burari and Jagarpura before the rally.

"We can end the strike today itself if the government is ready to conclude a written agreement with us promising the increment in honorarium, the amount of increase, the date from which the increment will be in force and also promising that no worker on strike will be victimised now or later," said Virshali, spokesperson of DSAWHU.

"The strike cannot be discontinued based on Kejriwal's Twitter activism or a press statement released by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia considering the same government tried to end the strike by all



United front: Anganwadi workers and helpers during a protest rally at Jantar Mantar on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Staff of district govt hospital go on strike

Patients in Noida left in the lurch

STAFF REPORTER
NOIDA

Thousands of patients in Noida were left in the lurch on Monday as 110 employees of the district government hospital went on strike over pending salaries and non-renewal of contracts.

The contract staff mostly work as paramedical personnel, ward boys, nurses and sweepers. The employees went on strike around 8 a.m.

CMO assures redressal
They eventually resumed their duties in the afternoon after assurances were given by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) that salaries of past two months would be released within a week.

"If we don't get salary

within a week then we will go again on strike," said Rajesh Kumar, a contract employee.

The strike mainly affected OPD patients. "My wife is admitted in the hospital. She was supposed to be taken for a test but there was no ward boy. When I took my wife on stretcher, I was told that the test could not be conducted as there was no staff," said Ram Kumar, who hails from Bihar.

The hospital is supported by the Noida authority, which is itself reeling under a financial crisis.

To ease its burden, the authority had recently written a letter to the State government to bear the expenses of the hospital.

HC angry over Hauz Khas village eateries

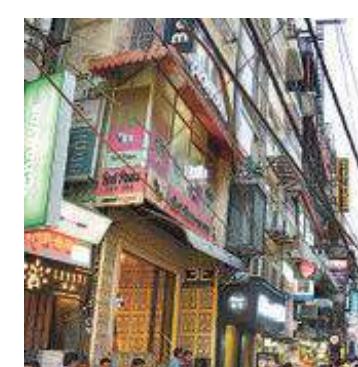
Asks SDMC and fire dept to file affidavits on shops built 'one on top of another'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The police and the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) were pulled up by the Delhi High Court on Monday for allowing eating joints to come up "neck to neck" in violation of building laws and the master plan in Hauz Khas village.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C. Hari Shankar observed that restaurants were located "one on top of another" in the area and were running out of residential properties, which had been converted to commercial use.

'Violation of master plan'
More than 100 restaurants are running in that small area in violation of building by-laws and the master plan.



Restaurants are located one on top of another," the court said.

The Bench directed the Delhi Police, Fire Services

"how licences could be issued for properties for usage which is in violation of the master plan" and listed the matter for further hearing on August 2.

'Unlawful existence'
The court was hearing petitions, which stated that there are over 120 restaurants and bars running in the area without any building plan approval.

Department and the SDMC to file affidavits on what was the permissible use of the said properties. It also sought to know

what was the permissible use of the said properties. It also sought to know

what was the permissible use of the said properties. It also sought to know

PWD floats tenders for ITO skywalk

Project will cost around ₹44.23 crore

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Public Works Department (PWD) has initiated the tendering process for construction of a skywalk and foot-over-bridge (FOB) at the ITO intersection, speeding up the Delhi government's plan to de-congest the area.

Nine months
According to the department, the project will be completed in nine months – starting from the time of construction – at an estimated cost of around ₹44.23 crore.

"Tender process started for construction of Skywalk and Footover bridge at Mathura Road, Tilak Bridge, ITO," PWD Minister Satyendar Jain tweeted on Sunday.

An official said that the FOB will connect Pragati Maidan metro station to Tilak Marg and other roads. ■ FILE PHOTO

The skywalk will connect the ITO metro station to Tilak Marg and other roads. ■ FILE PHOTO

An official said that the FOB will connect Pragati Maidan metro station to Tilak Marg and other roads. ■ FILE PHOTO

IN BRIEF



Fashionable princess
Priyanka has launched her new "Daddy's Princess Capsule Collection" that epitomises grace and splendour.

Priyanka, who seeks to create style that has Indian aesthetics and modern sophistication, has created this collection with an intent to celebrate fashion through an enchanting journey embarked upon rich Indian textiles. Exquisite capes, gowns, crop tops complimented with skirts in pleasing summery pastels, floral patterns and block printing incarnate minimalism and elegance are hallmark of this collection.

Saluting the brave

To celebrate bravado and courage of fearless soldiers, a function was organised at Select Citywalk to pay tribute to the sons of the nation. On the occasion, students of The Army Public School, Daula Kuan, painted Army vehicles. Soulful performances, poignant speeches and video films were attractions.

Guests also witnessed a musical tribute on sitar, army band display and a mini film festival on the Defence Forces was also screened.

Pop-up event

The WishList organised a curated pop-up shop in Delhi that showcased exquisite creations from across the country. Sadhana Mehta, Founder, The WishList, says: "My various travels across India for this season were to discover special crafts and design details from different regions. We had brought together an exclusive curation of Made in India as well as Western clothing."

When geometry meets poetry

Rahul Mishra, Monisha Jaisingh and Manav Gangwani share details on how they are going to present the India story on ramp at the ongoing India Couture Week

MADHUR TANKHA

With Make in India gaining currency, the tenth edition of Fashion Design Council of India's India Couture Week has couturiers incorporating indigenous craft techniques, fabrics and accessories in their wide assortment of outfits. So even when designers have given an international look to their garments, they have also seen to it that our national heritage has been used in a way that the discerning fashionistas would be able to spot them on the ramp.

Poetry on fabric

For Rahul Mishra his show at ICW will be like a poet's emotional outburst. In his collection "Parizaad", to be presented at Hotel Taj Palace on July 27, the confluence of yarn, colours, textile and hand worked motifs will all come alive on the ramp.

These elements, which make the fashion scene come alive, have been inspired by ancient science and architecture. New forms of visual expression, where abstract and complex geometry create varied patterns, will be showcased. Intricate vegetable motifs, patterns of mosaic, chevrons and spandrels from an earlier era will come alive to make the meticulous surface treatment appear surreal.

Translating the poetry of Rumi on outfits would be interesting.



Dress rehearsal: (Clockwise from top) Models wearing outfit created by Manav Gangwani during a fitting session; Monisha Jaisingh's 'opera girl' at work and Rahul Mishra's 'Parizaad' • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



"His poetry sums up how the universe functions; there is beauty, mystery and charm. As a designer, I try to convey the same lucid messages onto my clothes."

Complex geometric patterns are his favourite right from his school going days. "As a child, geometry was my favourite subject. I have always been fascinated by geometrical patterns and mathematical tessellations. Here I have gone back to the oldest geometric progressions which can be seen in Islamic architecture."

Although Rahul is looking at Islamic architectural masterpieces, his approach follows a very Zen-like philosophy. "This time we have simplified and adapted our patterns to create a geometry that is continuous and seamless by intertwining floral motifs. I want architectural details to look uncluttered and feather

light. Majolicas and haft rangi (seven colours) have been taken as reference points to create beautiful synergies of negative and positive depths of hand-embroideries."

On how he used vegetable motifs, patterns of mosaic, chevrons and spandrels to give visual expression, Rahul says: "All these architectural details have got a very strong character and identity but it is all about making them my own. My own idea of them, using a Zen-like treatment, where intricate details are understated and heavy mosaic embroideries are applied onto translucent fabrics."

The opera girl

Monisha Jaisingh is presenting a stylish grand show "Opera" at the Fashion Week on July 28. She will translate beauty of the opera house to each outfit in terms of right fittings, floral embroidery and dazzling embellish-

ments.

Describing her collection as colossal, the veteran couturier says: "Right from 16th Century onwards, adolescent girls from privileged background used to deck up in their fine silhouettes and jewels. To me they have always resembled portraits featuring gorgeous girls sitting in their boxes at the opera house. Inspired by this, this collection has been created. It has right mix of finery and performance on stage."

Monisha's modern urban woman, whose spirit would be highlighted by each model, epitomises youthfulness and creativity. "I always keep the modern Indian woman in mind, who keeps in mind her traditions and values. The exuberant finery worn at the opera in earlier times has been used as an inspiration to create traditional yet contemporary garments. My woman loves her lehenga

On the need to follow the Make in India concept in

such a big way, Manav says: "India has always been the hub of craft. Zardozi, chikankari, aari work have been around in India for so many years. Even today they are irreplaceable. It is important that we stay connected to our roots. They need to arouse interest among the new generation."

The strong character and fragility of the opera singer personifies the colour palette of each couture piece ranging from burgundy to rose pink and from metallics to ice blue.

On how she has used indigenous craft technique, Monisha says: "Right from fabric to embellishments everything is made in India. Lot of Indian fabric and embroidery like zardozi have been used but in a Western sense. Fabric has been obtained from all States of the country. Dramatic ethnic flair has been infused with modern element in concept lehengas and cocktail saris with contemporary fabrics like twisted silk jersey, tulle, Italian organza."

India @ 70

For Manav Gangwani, couture is not just about fashion; it has a broader meaning. "It represents a designer's legacy and interpretation of fashion," says the designer, who is presenting his India story at his show at The Lodhi on July 25.

Detailing, embroidery and silhouettes have all come together to create garments in his collection titled "India @ 70".

The title has to do with celebrating 70 years of India's independence. Putting together all embroideries of different parts of the country on each outfit was challenging. To start with, Kashmir has been reflected through Jamawars. Then we have Bandhanis of Rajasthan, Kathakali from Kerala and brocades of Varanasi. Incorporation of multiple elements and techniques, some new and some traditional make garments visually appealing. So we have shown a pan-India representation."



Art sans labels

Tom Alter speaks about the world of Rumi and much more

MD. ARSALAN

In his quest for spiritual attainment, Rumi once started whirling and went on for 36 hours until he fell on the floor. He spun so fast that he realised a centre was formed within him. The whole world was moving but the centre remained the same. This is veteran actor Tom Alter at his eloquent best while speaking at an event titled "Poetic Whirl" organised at The Lalit by YFLO Delhi.

Alter went on to explain that Rumi's poetry and dance were inspired by the love for his master Shams Tabrizi.

"After the death of Tabrizi, poetry and dance were the only sources for Rumi's reunion with his master," he says.

Moving to Shiva, Alter described him as a scientist and master of consciousness. "He used 112 sutras of Vijnana Bhairava Tantra. Each sutra is a scientific method to use the body to attain higher consciousness and each sutra is a symbol of love."

Asked whether Shiva, Rumi and Ghalib have been an inspiration for him, the actor says: "Well, inspired, I cannot say but I think they



Making a point: Tom Alter says Urdu represents Hindustan • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

were all interested in things around them. They were inquisitive towards the essence of life. All these three were very much vibrant in knowing about life, that is why they are such fascinating people."

Poetry in Bollywood

Noting that the traditional Indian poetry was existing in Hindi cinema, Tom says: "Today, the two greatest lyricists Javed Akhtar and Gulzar are both poets and are in high demand though they write modern songs as well. One cannot be a lyricist until he or she is interested in po-

etry. They are two finest examples."

Elaborating the role Urdu has played in enriching the Indian culture, the actor, an eloquent Urdu speaker himself, says: "Urdu represents Hindustan, it is an inclusive language. Urdu actually started being spoken well after the Mughals came. In *Mughal-e-Azam* they showed Mughals speaking Urdu but actually they spoke Persian. Urdu began to be spoken as a language probably near the end of Aurangzeb's time."

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



MUSIC

Yugo live

Farzi Cafe will be presenting a live performance by Yugo. The artist is a singer/songwriter/independent artist Chochung Dema Thungon from Arunachal Pradesh. Her music is not genre bound and she believes that music emerges from both life experiences and the state of the world and should tell a story.

VENUE: R-Block, DLF City, Phase 3, Gurugram

TIME: 9 p.m.



EXHIBITION

In Retrospect

Shridharani Art Gallery is holding a group art exhibition displaying paintings. The participating artists include Anil Naik, Uttam Chapte, Rajendra Patil and Chayan Roy. The works reflect human emotions and the innermost feelings of the artists.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg,

Mandi House, New Delhi

TIME: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



FELICITATION

Nirbhaya Samarth

OYSS Women and Honor for Women National Campaign will be felicitating women achievers Kamla Bhasin, Shabana Azmi, Geeta Chandran, Chanda Kochhar, Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath and ar sportswomen Deepa Malik (Padma Shri). This will be followed by four innovative classical dance choreographies.

VENUE: IIC, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi

TIME: 6.30 p.m.



PERFORMANCE

Abhinav Singh

Piano Man Jazz Club will hold a performance by Abhinav Singh. A Delhi-based singer-songwriter and guitarist who seamlessly blends the elements of pop, indie, soul and blues music into a stirring sonic experience. His aims that his songs speak for his thoughts in melody.

VENUE: B 6, Comm. Comp., Safdarjung Encl.

TIME: 9 p.m.



TALK

Gunjan Sabha

India International Centre will be holding the Gunjan Sabha Verse 25 which will include a documentary alap in Dhruv style followed by a recitation by Prof. Sushil Kumar Saxena, lec-dem by Gagan Vij, lec-dem by Preerna Shrimali on Kathak and session on Haveli Sangeet.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, Lodhi Estate

TIME: 11 a.m. onwards

TECH-A-BYTE



AI at the edge with Neural Compute Stick

Application of artificial intelligence is getting a tad easier: developers won't need to tap into the cloud; AI power will be available on laptops. Last week Intel launched the Movidius Neural Compute Stick, which it said is the world's first self-contained AI accelerator in a USB format. "Based on the Movidius Myriad 2 VPU, the device empowers researchers and product developers with dedicated deep neural network-processing capabilities at the edge for augmented and virtual reality applications, drones, robotics, smart security solutions and more," Intel, which acquired Movidius in September last year, said.

Developers will be able to use as many as four Movidius Neural Compute Sticks running simultaneously, to accelerate object recognition. The product has been certified for sale in 93 countries, including India.

A mobile application that works as a hearing aid

For people who have mild to moderate hearing impairment, there is now an app that will make sound loud and clear, be it in a one-on-one or a group conversation. Called MobileEars, it makes use of a unique speech-amplification technology and focuses on speech clarity, noise cancellation, filtering and removal of unwanted background noise.

The product is the result of years of collaborative work by Listen AS and Norwegian research organisation SINTEF. The manufacturers hope this will be hugely beneficial to many people who are inhibited from buying hearing aids by factors such as stigma, lack of easy availability of the aids, their high cost, among other reasons. "MobileEars is easy to use, requires no special devices, is beneficial for people of all ages, and suitable for indoor as well as outdoor sound environments," said Snorre Vestadt, CEO, Listen AS. Available on iTunes, open the app to enter the user's age and gender, so that it can customise the listener's experience. Plug in earphones and move the button on the slider to personalise the sound for maximum speech clarity and amplification.



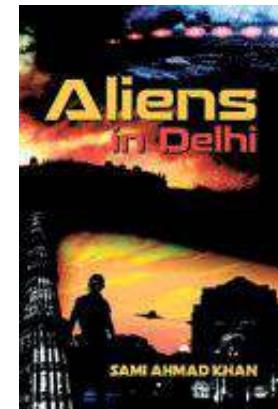
Cleartrip adds restaurant reviews and travel guides

Cleartrip, a portal to book travel tickets, is increasingly foraying into providing information that helps people discover and engage in hyperlocal leisure experiences. Following the recent launch of 'Cleartrip Local', which helps users identify interesting places and events in cities, it has added Cleartrip Stories as an extension of Local. Stories reviews restaurants, does travel guides for popular (Goa) and offbeat destinations (Gokarna). These are written by experts and enthusiasts who have a passion to share their knowledge. It goes beyond listings and listicles, focusing on in-depth local views of experiences.



A tour of International Space Station on Google Maps

You can now have a virtual tour of the International Space Station, on Google Maps through its Street View feature. It showcases images of the interiors of the ISS and allows users to experience what it's like to look down on Earth from outer space, said Google. Thomas Pesquet, astronaut at the European Space Agency, spent six months at the International Space Station and captured the Street View imagery in zero gravity, to help people discover and explore the experience of being in a spaceship. The Street View team worked with NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, to design a gravity-free method of collecting the imagery using DSLR cameras and equipment already on the ISS. The still photos collected from the ISS were sent down to Earth, where they were stitched together to create panoramic 360-degree imagery of the ISS.



Author Sami Ahmad Khan says science fiction is the software that recalibrates the readers' mind to accept plurality



No literary aim: Khan says he wanted to write a politically incorrect, theoretically-catastrophic narrative ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Ideate, interrogate, speculate

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

Sami Ahmad Khan's *Aliens in Delhi* is everything a sci-fi buff would want. There is a secret, all-powerful conglomerate, reptilian aliens, a mutation that spreads through the smartphone (har! har!) a mysterious stranger and a beautiful woman.

Talking about the genesis of the book, the 32-year-old academic says, "A long time ago, in a galaxy not so far away, I was driving around Raisina Hill on a rather balmy evening. As the sun set, traffic police personnel, yellow DP barricades, and security forces lined the streets, in order to facilitate the top brass returning home. A web of questions sprang to my mind. Why is the security beefed up like this? I got my answer in one word: terrorism. Impulsively, I tried to imagine threats worse than the usual terrestrial 'others'. Why don't, I asked myself, aliens visit India? Why do they always go to the US or Europe? A post-colonial angst raged within me. We are a thriving

democracy, a rising superpower, and a country of more than a billion people. Are we not good enough to deserve being invaded by aliens? How would the Indian state apparatus respond to such a horrifying eventuality? I wanted to answer these questions in my head using a genre-fusing narrative, and *Aliens in Delhi* emerged out of such a speculative exercise."

Recalibration for readers and writers

Khan has done his PhD on how Indian SF writers, using their narratives, reinterpreted, reworked and addressed maladies prevalent in today's India. About his fascination for the genre, Khan says, "Je ne sais quoi. Perhaps, because SF is a genre that ideates, interrogates and speculates about the problematic interfaces between technology, humanity and social realities. This becomes all the more pivotal in our times, where a cell phone not only makes phone calls, but can as

easily incite a riot. SF emerges as a software that recalibrates the readers' mind to counter fundamentalism, extremism and parochialism by portraying plurality and by showcasing dystopian futures.

The Delhi-based author says that as a child he used to stare at the night sky for hours. "I used to squint at the stars in the hope of finding any movement. My earliest SF memory is from Class III, I think. I read



about a space battle in a Hindi comic book, and it changed the way I saw the world around me. I somehow got hold of a *Star Trek* novel in Class IX, and I realised that despite being only average in Math, Chemistry and Physics, I could (at least) speculate about wormholes, multiple universes, AI, FTL drives and time travel etc. What science, with all its emphasis on proofs, didn't allow me to do, SF did. It was truly liberating.

While the author argues against SF being escapist, insisting the genre is social commentary, he has described *Aliens in Delhi* as an anti-highbrow SF novel. "I felt a desire to write a politically incorrect, pulp, theoretically-catastrophic, narrative about bug-eyed-monsters-from-outer-space, which had no social or literary aim except one: the invasion has begun!"

As a genre, SF movies (good ones) are characterised by stunning visuals. Khan, how-

ever, does not feel they overwhelm the books. "I don't see a binary between movies and writing here. On the contrary, they have been pretty complementary to each other, and it is through SF films that many SF texts have gained a wider recognition and reach, and vice-versa."

A commentary on the world

A fan of *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Doctor Who*, and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Khan says he loves how SF, "while being full of

space battles and laser guns and experiments gone wrong, somehow also ends up commenting on the world we live in, thereby indirectly telling us to take better care of the world around us."

Some of the characters from Khan's award-winning debut novel, *Red Jihad*, are seen in *Aliens in Delhi*, including the Indian Prime Minister Biplob Roy, Yasser Basheer, the American president and the Maoist leader Agyaat. Khan chooses Basheer as his

favourite character. "He has been something of a dark horse since *Red Jihad*. The moment one feels he/she has figured him out, he mutates. Sometimes, quite literally!"

The research, Khan said, "Involved talking to people from different backgrounds, reading a lot, and sifting the Internet for facts and figures relevant to the plot. Arranging this information as a cogent, plausible whole, and interlacing it with the fabric of the narrative, without the overall pace becoming sluggish, was a challenge."

Leaving an opening for a sequel which would have more on Imran and Sonya, Khan says it was a bit difficult to get it published. "Many see SF as a genre imported from the west. Indian SF has had its own history and tradition, and isn't 'new' here. It is a significant part of contemporary popular imagination. Publishers are often a bit reluctant about SF, since they feel it will not 'sell'. However, good stories always have a market (irrespective of their genre)."

GAME SPOT



Destiny 2

September 6

Destiny may have launched in 2014, but it's still one of the most popular massively multi-player online shooters out there, with millions of players. This September will see the much-awaited sequel releasing on PS4, Xbox One and on PC. A return to the universe of Destiny, as a new enemy called the Red Legion has threatened the solar system once more. As a Guardian, you have to answer the call to arms, where you travel across planets in an epic single-player campaign, multi-player and co-op play, all in search of incredible loot.

Middle-Earth: Shadow of War

October 10

The Middle Earth series of *The Lord of the Rings* may have put JRR Tolkien's world on its head, but in the process, they made a very good action game. *Shadow of War* follows the same formula that made *Shadow of Mordor* so good, and pushes the envelope by letting you build your own army of Uruk. This time though, the writers have gone bonkers with the lore, giving Talion his own one ring, that the master smith Celebrimbor himself has fashioned. This puts the both of them square into an epic untold war of the rings. Sounds exciting.



Wolfenstein II: The New Colossus

October 27

After tasting how good the reboot of *Wolfenstein* was, we cannot wait for the recently revealed sequel. The game pulls one-man-Nazi-killing-machine, BJ Blazkowicz, out of a coma and right into 1960s Nazi-occupied America. With his partner pregnant, BJ has to meet and recruit resistance leaders to fight the Nazis, to make the world a better place for his family. With the small glimpse of the game we got at E3, *Wolfenstein* looks like a trippy rocket-fuelled vacation, killing mechanised Nazis.

Half the glass remains

The first part of the year brought us some exciting games, but here's a look at some of the best upcoming games

JULIAN ALMEIDA

The first half of 2017 was a blast on the gaming front. From amazing games that were instant classics as soon as they hit, like *Horizon Zero Dawn*, *Nioh* and *Nier: Automata*, to some really great titles like *Prey* and *Injustice 2*. We also saw the launch of a new gaming console by Nintendo, along with a new *Zelda*, which was addictive. There were also a bunch of games that were quite disappointing, like the much-awaited *Mass Effect Andromeda*, that failed to live up to expectations, even though it was a fun game. Now, let's see what's there to look forward to, in the next half of the year.



Need for Speed Payback

November 7

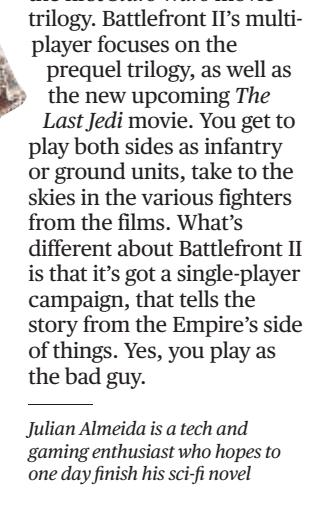
The Need for Speed series has always aspired to be like the *Fast and Furious* movies, and with *Payback*, they seem to have taken the heist playbook the films have been all about recently. E3 unveiled a high-speed heist of a highway robbery that looks like it's straight out of *Vin Diesel's* franchise. Let's hope *Need for Speed Payback* can keep that momentum going throughout the game.



Uncharted: The Lost Legacy

August 22

Nathan Drake's saga may have come to a happy ending, but that does not mean we're done with the exciting treasure-hunting world of *Uncharted*. Billed as a standalone adventure, *The Lost Legacy* takes Chloe Frazer and mercenary Nadine Ross to the mountains of India in search of an artefact. Chloe was not there in *Uncharted 4*, so it'll be great to see an entire game focused on this fantastic character.



Star Wars Battlefront II

November 17

The first *Star Wars* Battlefront reboot was a multi-player-only game that let you relive the battles set in popular locations from the first *Star Wars* movie trilogy. *Battlefront II*'s multi-player focuses on the prequel trilogy, as well as the new upcoming *The Last Jedi* movie. You get to play both sides as infantry or ground units, take to the skies in the various fighters from the films. What's different about *Battlefront II* is that it's got a single-player campaign, that tells the story from the Empire's side of things. Yes, you play as the bad guy.



Julian Almeida is a tech and gaming enthusiast who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel