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## NEARBY



SC rejects abortion plea of 10-year-old

NEW DELHI  
 A 10-year-old rape victim has been left with no choice but to continue with her pregnancy after a medical panel informed the Supreme Court on Friday that an abortion will endanger both the girl and her 32-week-old foetus.

NATION ▶ PAGE 5

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DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

## No missed lessons



Wary glances: Schoolchildren walk on a Srinagar street on Friday after authorities imposed restrictions on the movement of civilians in five police station areas, in view of a protest called by separatists. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## Doval wants BRICS to step up fight against terrorism

ATUL ANEJA

BEIJING  
 National Security Adviser Ajit Doval has called upon the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping, to exercise international leadership in countering terrorism.

During his opening remarks on Friday at the seventh BRICS meeting of National Security Advisers (NSAs), Mr. Doval, without referring to any country, urged the BRICS countries

"to show leadership in countering terrorism."

As part of his remarks, he also advocated that the five emerging economies should work towards setting the agenda "on strategic issues of regional and global im-

portance." Later, accompanied by the security chiefs of other BRICS members, Mr. Doval called on Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Though the meeting was meant to iron out the security agenda of the BRICS sum-

mit, slated for September, Mr. Doval's call on Mr. Xi, acquired a sharp bilateral context, in view of the on-going military face-off between Indian and Chinese troops in Doklam.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Think global, but dress local at convocation

ARUN S.

NEW DELHI  
 Consider junking "foreign-influenced" convocation attire of gown and cap, and opt for a dress that reflects Indian culture.

That was Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's advice on Friday to the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), at its convocation. The premier institute on foreign trade management should do internal brainstorming, she added, and even take help from the National Institute of Fashion Technology.

Ms. Sitharaman's pitch echoes similar demands made in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Dressed in a blue sari and blouse, she said she "somehow never felt comfortable in a gown and cap [the square academic cap], though this is not because I disrespect it." "I think we need to review this, like we review the Foreign Trade Policy and other policies," she said. Ms. Sitharaman wore the gown and cap at the IIFT convocation last year. In Uttar Pradesh, IIT-



Desi colours: Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the convocation of the institute on Friday. ■ IIFT

Kanpur has adopted salwar suits with churidars for women, and cream kurtas and Aligarhi white pyjamas for men. Even the business-focussed Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) has dwelt on "Indian attire". On July 24, the ICSI quoted its president, Shyam Agrawal, as saying that "the ICSI has adopted traditional attire as its Convocation Dress Code and has decided to do away with the Western attire of gowns and caps..."

The dress code for the ICSI event is now kurta pyjama for boys and sari/ suit for girls, it said. The Institute also introduced an angavastra or stole/uttariya made of khadi for students.

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CM YK

A ND-NDE

# Priority not right in DMF fund utilisation, says CSE

Odisha districts ignore areas such as healthcare, welfare

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

Despite making the highest collection under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in the country, Odisha has not got its priority right as far as fund utilisation is concerned, the Centre for Science and Environment, a New Delhi-based advocacy group, said on Friday.

Odisha's six districts, including resource rich Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Jharsuguda, have largely ignored vital areas like healthcare and welfare of women and children in spite of faring very poorly on health, mortality and nutrition indicators, said CSE Deputy Director General Chandra Bhushan, addressing a regional meeting on 'DMFs implementation and road ahead'.

Odisha remains at the top with total cumulative collection of ₹1,932.5 crore followed by Jharkhand with

₹1,056.2 crore and Chhattisgarh with ₹1,042 crore.

According to CSE, which has come up with an analysis on DMF implementation, only about 3% of rural households in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts get treated tap water while the same is 4% in Jharsuguda.

## Drinking water

"Keonjhar has allocated the highest share of DMF budget (33%) for drinking water, but the kind of work the money has been allocated for is poorly conceived. Nearly 80% of drinking water budget is for building tube-wells. In mining areas, where water contamination is already high, tube-wells are certainly not the best solution for clean drinking water," it says.

Jharsuguda's budget has allocated the maximum funds to urban centres, despite the fact that about 60% of people live in rural areas

# Illegal arms factory unearthed in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

An illegal arms factory was unearthed in the city's Tiljala area and five persons were arrested for their alleged involvement with it, the police said on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a

raid at a residence in Tiljala's Gulshan Math area late on Thursday night, a senior police official said. "We have arrested the owner of the building and four others. Several country-made pistols and a machine used for the manufacturing were seized," he said.

The error is regretted.

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## IN BRIEF



Bollywood actor Inder Kumar dies

Bollywood actor Inder Kumar, who starred in Salman Khan's *Wanted*, died following a massive heart attack at his residence here on Friday. He was 43. He worked in several films and in TV soap *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi*. The actor hit headlines in 2014 when a model accused him of raping her. PTI

## Plane lands safely in Jodhpur after bird hit

MUMBAI/JODHPUR A Jet Airways flight from Mumbai to Jodhpur with 167 people on board suffered a bird hit, which caused one of its engines to emit sparks and smoke, a senior official said. The Boeing 737-800 finally landed safely at the Jodhpur civil enclave airport. PTI

## ₹200 will be introduced soon, says Minister

NEW DELHI With rumours of withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes doing the rounds, Minister of State for Finance Santosh Kumar Gangwar said there was no such move, adding that ₹200 notes would be in circulation soon. A top government official said the ₹200 note would be introduced in August. IANS

## SC rejects abortion plea of 10-year-old

It would be in the interest of neither girl child nor foetus, says court; calls for State-level medical boards to hear urgent cases

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

A 10-year-old rape victim has been left with no choice but to continue with her pregnancy after a medical panel informed the Supreme Court on Friday that an abortion will endanger both the girl and her 32-week foetus.

On July 24, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar had directed doctors from P.G.I., Chandigarh, to medically examine the girl and file a report in court on whether the "health of the girl child concerned, who is stated to be of the age of 10 years, and also that of the foetus, would be adversely affected, if the pregnancy is continued for the full term".

In a short hearing, the court perused the report filed by the doctors in a sealed cover and denied permission for an abortion.

"In view of the reasons recorded, it would neither be in interest of the girl child nor her foetus of 32 weeks to order abortion," the court observed.

## Permanent boards

But the Bench went on to urge the government, represented by Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar, to consider setting up permanent medical boards across the States so that women, especially child rape victims, could receive expedient access to medical care.

The Medical Termination

## Abortion and courts

**JULY 2017:** Supreme Court (SC) dismisses the plea of a 10-year-old rape victim to abort her 32-week foetus, based on a medical report warning against it

**MAY 2017:** SC denies the plea of a 35-year-old HIV positive woman to abort her 26-week-old foetus, citing a report by AIIMS doctors that it could endanger her life

**FEB 28, 2017:** SC disallows a woman, 37, from Maharashtra from aborting her 26-week-old foetus that tested positive for Down's Syndrome. The court cited the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act's limit of 20 weeks to abort a foetus to deny her the permission

How has the judiciary handled abortion cases?

**FEB. 7, 2017:** SC allows a 22-year-old woman to terminate her 24-week foetus based on a medical report that it would endanger her life

**JAN. 2017:** SC allows a Mumbai-based woman to abort her 24-week foetus under the MTP Act, considering a hospital's report that said the child would not survive as it didn't have a skull

**APRIL 2016:** The Chhattisgarh High Court allows a 23-year-old woman to abort her foetus, which was over 20 weeks old. The court said that the woman had been raped and had run into red tape over the permission to abort

**APRIL 2015:** The Punjab and Haryana High Court refuses to grant permission for abortion to a 13-year-old rape victim, whose pregnancy had exceeded the mandatory 20-week limit

Is abortion a legal right?

Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, abortion is not a legal right but in exceptional circumstances it is allowed solely at the discretion of a doctor or a medical board of a hospital

of Pregnancy Act of 1971 bars abortion if the foetus has crossed the 20-week mark. An exception to the law is made if a registered medical practitioner certifies to a court that the continued pregnancy is life-threatening for either the mother or the baby.

Presently, women are forced to undertake the cumbersome process of approaching different courts, from district courts to high courts and finally the Supreme Court, for permission to medically terminate their pregnancies which are over 20 weeks.

The frequent number of such cases which have come to the Supreme Court range from child rape victims to destitute women to women with substantial foetus abnormalities.

"In all such cases, time is very short. We are considering those cases under Article 142 (orders passed by the apex court to do complete

justice). Can a permanent medical board be set up at State-level to examine the cases till the Bill is pending for amendment into the law?" the Bench asked Mr. Kumar.

## Amendment pending

An amended Bill of the 1971 law which extends the bar from 20 to 24 weeks has been in the cold storage for the past three years. This draft Bill allows women, whose pregnancies are

## Mumbai woman gets court nod

Foetus had neurological disorders

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed a plea by a Mumbai-based woman to abort her 24-week-old foetus following confirmation by a medical board that it suffers from neurological disorders.

A Bench led by Justice Dipak Misra had earlier ordered the woman to be examined by a panel of doctors consisting of the heads of the departments of gynaecology, neurology and cardiology at J.J. Hospital in Mumbai.

The woman had sought the medical termination of her pregnancy on the opinion of a paediatric neurologist that her foetus was suffering from a neurological problem which would likely aggravate with time.

Her lawyer had argued that the problem "may increase significantly before the delivery causing harm to the developing brain and possibly cognitive impairment" and require extensive neurosurgical procedure.

victim undergo abortion on July 18.

## Time lost

Subsequently, the PIL petition by advocate Alak Alok Srivastava for medical termination of her pregnancy was urgently mentioned in the Supreme Court on July 21. The child was medically examined only on July 26 on the orders of the apex court.

In the case of the 10-year-old, a Chandigarh district court had refused to let the

Sheena's murder was planned on Skype: driver

SONAM SAIGAL  
MUMBAI

Deposing before the special Central Bureau of Investigation court, Shyamvar Rai, who worked as a driver for Indrani Mukerjea, reiterated his earlier statement, which had said that Mukerjea wanted to kill Sheena Bora and Mikhail Bora.

Rai, earlier an accused and now an approver in the case, in his confessional statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on November 16, had said that he and Mukerjea had talked over Skype to plan the killings of not just Sheena but Mikhail as well.

He said on Friday that Mukerjea contacted him towards the end of March 2011, via Skype, and that all further communication about the plan for the murder had been via the same online service.

His statement said, "Indrani madam told me over Skype that Sheena and Mikhail had been defaming her as their mother, and that she wanted to kill them."

"She told me that a man from Calcutta (Sanjeev Khanna, her former husband) will arrive shortly to execute the killings."

Rai's deposition will continue on August 1.

## Most private hospitals evade tax: CAG

No process to track non-filers in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Delhi, says report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A performance audit of India's private hospitals has revealed that a majority of the institutions is evading tax. The report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), released on Friday, pointed out that data on 'non-filers' of income tax was available only in three states – West Bengal, Assam and Gujarat.

The auditors found that Delhi, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu had no process of identifying hospitals that were evading tax.

"The detailed list of non-filers along with action taken thereof could be furnished in respect of West Bengal, As-



'Most private practitioners do not submit valid PAN'

sam and Gujarat only, where out of 18,333 cases, Income-Tax Department had closed 3,627 cases and the remaining 14,706 cases were "under verification/action pending" or were yet to be closed. Audit found that no such

process of identification on non-filers through a monitoring system existed in Delhi, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu," the audit said.

The private sector accounts for 80% of outpatient care and 60% of inpatient care in the country. According to State-wide data from the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), the health sector attracted Foreign Direct Investment of ₹23,169.91 crore between April 2000 and September 2016. Yet, the report states that most private hospitals and practitioners did not submit valid Permanent Account Numbers (PAN).

In West Bengal, out of 19,822 registered practition-

ers, PAN registration of only 4,849 cases could be traced.

## Unjustified exemptions

In Maharashtra, a study of charitable hospitals – that avail a tax exemption – found that private hospitals availed "unjustified exemptions" amounting to ₹249.66 crore involving a revenue impact of ₹77.14 crore.

On the basis of data from Charity Commissioner in Mumbai, the CAG analysed 10 trust hospitals and found that none of them fulfilled the conditions of Bombay Public Trust Act. "Bed occupancy in eight out of 10 hospitals was less than the mandated 10% for weaker sections," the report added.

"We may stumble, but we'll weather this and I don't

## 'Difficult time for climate research'

We may stumble but we'll weather this, says U.S. scientist Michael McPhaden

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

A leading American oceanographer said here that it was a "difficult" time for climate-related research in the United States but there was hope that research partnerships with countries such as India would help sustain long-term programmes.

"There is concern in the U.S. about how budgets may fare in the current political climate," Michael McPhaden, senior researcher at the U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) told *The Hindu*.

"We may stumble, but we'll weather this and I don't

think we'll fall off the table."

U.S. President Donald Trump, who last month pulled the United States out of the Paris Accord, had in 2016 proposed deep cuts – worth millions of dollars – to several agencies that fund climate-change research. These are still to be ratified by the U.S. Congress.

McPhaden is credited with leading programmes in the 1980s and 1990s to establish a system of sensors in

the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans to warn of impending El Niños.

## Productive collaboration

Speaking at an event organised by the Union Earth Sciences Ministry, he said that a decade-old project with India to moor buoys and floats in the Indian Ocean to get better data on sea surface temperatures was a highly productive collaboration.

"It could serve as an exemplar of the kind of projects which would continue to be supported by the Trump administration," he said. The dynamical climate model that India uses to forecast the monsoon was

developed at the NOAA.

McPhaden is an expert on the El Niño phenomenon, which is known to adversely affect six out of ten Indian summer monsoons. He said it was still too early to say whether there is a link between global warming and a rise in the frequency and severity of the El Niño phenomenon.

"If we continue to pump out greenhouse gases as we now do, we will begin to see changes in the El Niño cycle (usually a 3-year oscillation of sea surface temperatures). But so far there's no determining finger-print of how much global warming has changed it," he said.

She can tamper with evidence and influence witnesses: petitioner



Pragya Singh Thakur

and is likely to wield her power and influence in an illegal and unlawful manner to tamper with evidence and influence witnesses," the petition contended.

But in an affidavit, the National

Investigation Agency (NIA) countered that it had not found "sufficient evidence" to prosecute Thakur. However, on the other hand, the agency contended that there were "several incriminating circumstances" against Purohit to prove "his deep involvement and complicity in the crime."

**No question of parity**  
Thakur was granted bail by the High Court, which, however, had refused a similar relief to Purohit. The NIA contended that there was no question of parity between the two accused and the High Court did not err in granting bail to Thakur.

Seven persons were killed in a bomb blast on September 29, 2008, at Malegaon. A Bench led by Justice R.K. Agarwal also listed the bail plea of Thakur's co-accused Shrikant Purohit for August 14.

The petition challenging the bail for Thakur was filed by Nisar Ahmed Hajji Sayed Bilal, father of some of the blast victims. It wants a stay of the April 25 High Court order.

"The High Court failed to appreciate that Sadvi Pragya Singh Thakur is an influential person

sought responses from the Centre and the Kerala government on the plea made by the Toddy Shop Licensee Association.

The traders, represented by advocate Beena Madhavan, dubbed toddy as a natural drink sourced from coconut trees in the State and with such "minuscule" alcohol content that it cannot be clubbed with any form of liquor.

"Traditionally toddy has been considered differently from other forms of liquor," their petition

contended. They submitted in court that the ban has led to the closure of toddy shops and affected the livelihood of an already vulnerable community, which includes the traditional toddy tappers.

The traders argued that even the State of Kerala treats toddy differently from liquor or other alcoholic drinks. The Kerala Akbari Act of 1902 distinctly defines toddy from spirit, beer, liquor and arrack. Even the Kerala Akbari Shops Disposal Rules of 2002 gives toddy a distinct identity.

With 'minuscule' alcohol content it cannot be termed liquor: petition

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Toddy has a distinct identity from what constitutes liquor and should not be included in the Supreme Court's nationwide ban on sale of alcohol within 500 metres of national and State highways.

"Toddy is even exempted on dry days [days on which sale of alcohol is prohibited]," toddy traders from Kerala told the Supreme Court on Friday.

A Bench led by Justice Ranjan Gogoi, after some preliminary questions on "what is this toddy,"

## KALOJI NARAYANA RAO UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, WARANGAL, TELANGANA STATE

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For detailed schedule refer to KNRUHS website [www.knruhs.in](http://www.knruhs.in).

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REGISTRAR

## GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH General Administration Department Addendum on Tender Notice

RFP Reference No.Gd/W.S/PD/2017-2018 is made to the Tender notice issued on 28-07-2017 [DPR. 117/CL-published on 27-07-2017 in The Hindu and Eenadu Daily Newspapers] to the tender for Website Development, maintenance and support of General Administration Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from <https://tender.procurement.gov.in> and tender id is 136990. Addendums/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted on the above site.

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## Cinema & censorship

Sadly, the battle for free expression is having to be fought so often these days

In a system that sets much store by retaining the power to censor films in the name of certifying them, random attempts by petitioners seeking cuts or even a ban often add to the pre-release anxieties of filmmakers. While rejecting the petition filed by a person claiming to be the daughter of the late Sanjay Gandhi to set aside the certificate granted to *Indu Sarkar*, a film directed by Madhur Bhandarkar, the Supreme Court has rightly banked on a well-established principle that freedom of expression cannot be curtailed without a valid reason. It has reiterated that the film is nothing but artistic expression within the parameters of law and that there is no warrant or justification to curtail it. Earlier, the Central Board of Film Certification, which under its present director, Pahlaj Nihalani, has not exactly distinguished itself, had granted a certificate to the film after suggesting 14 cuts. The Revision Committee had reduced the number of cuts, leaving nothing to be adjudicated as far as the suitability of the film for exhibition is concerned. Yet, a single individual managed to create some uncertainty over the release of the film by approaching the courts. The film relates to events set during the 1975-77 Emergency and, going by the director's disclaimer, its factual content is limited to 30%. Apart from the expression of concern by some Congress functionaries, there was little to suggest that anyone would take seriously the claim that the party's leaders may be convincingly shown "in a bad light".

Recent experience suggests that the CBFC does not always see itself as a certifying authority, but rather plays the censor quite merrily. In the case of *Udaipur last year*, it was seeking to be the guardian of Punjab's honour against the depiction of the high prevalence of drug addiction in the State. The Bombay High Court had to remind the CBFC that certification, and not censorship, is its primary role and that its power to order changes and cuts must be exercised in accordance with constitutional principles. More recently, the CBFC sought to play the moral censor with regard to *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, a film it thought was too "lady-oriented" to be given a certificate, presumably because it depicts their fantasies. The Film Certification Appellate Tribunal had to intervene to secure the release of the film, with an 'A' certificate. These instances demonstrate that challenges to freedom come from both within the systemic framework and outside. It is a matter of satisfaction that the courts prefer to protect the right to free expression rather than entertain excuses such as maintenance of law and order and public tranquillity, or someone's sense of hurt or the fear of someone being portrayed in a bad light. It is disconcerting, nonetheless, that the battle for free expression is having to be fought so often these days.

## The state's domain

The proposal to allow the private sector to run district hospitals has its risks

The potential of India's district hospital system to dramatically expand access to quality secondary and tertiary health care has never really been realised. The majority of patients today use the facilities created mostly by for-profit urban hospitals. That asymmetry could potentially be offset, though only in small part, through the proposal of the NITI Aayog and the Union Health Ministry to allow private entities to use the premises of the district hospitals to provide treatment for cardiac and pulmonary diseases and cancer. Viewed in perspective, a quick scaling-up of care for such non-communicable diseases is possible under the arrangement, because there are 763 functional district hospitals, with just five States led by Uttar Pradesh accounting for over 42% of the facilities. Yet, contracting out services in a virtually unregulated and largely commercial private system is fraught with risks. One major concern in such an arrangement is to ensure that the bulk of health spending, whether from government funds, subsidy or private insurance, goes into actual care provision, and that administrative expenditure is capped under the contract. Moreover, in consonance with the goal to provide health for all under the National Health Policy, care should be universal, and free at the point of delivery. A market-driven approach to providing district hospital beds for only those with the means would defeat the objective.

Providing 50 or 100 beds in a district hospital may expand access to care, but such arrangements do not offer a cure for the larger problem of the growing non-communicable disease burden. Lifestyle choices and social determinants, such as tobacco and alcohol use, and environmental pollution, are often linked to such diseases. Controlling the epidemic, therefore, requires other policy approaches too. Given the already high prevalence of cardiac and pulmonary conditions, some arising from diabetes and hypertension, and cancers, having more beds for treatment is a necessity. It is incongruous, however, to opt for contracts of 30 years, given the move towards achieving universal health coverage and, aspirationally, a single-payer government-led model that mainly relies on public facilities. Strong oversight is also necessary to ensure that ethical and rational treatment protocols are followed in the new facilities, and procurement and distribution of drugs are centralised to keep costs under control. Ultimately, the success of such systems depends on medical outcomes on the one hand, and community satisfaction on the other. Both dimensions must find place in a contract, and be assessed periodically. A provision for audits, penalties and cancellation of contracts is essential. Given the recourse to tax funds for viability gap funding and use of public infrastructure, the operations should be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

# The curious case of Nitish Kumar

As the opposition parties become empty and enervated, the BJP's majoritarianism sounds more authoritarian



SHIV VISVANATHAN

Jayaprakash Narayan must be turning in his proverbial grave wondering what is happening to Bihar and his beloved socialism. After the Emergency, socialism as a brand name got associated with two political figures who dominated the Bihar landscape. One was Lalu Prasad, who covered up the politics of corruption as the politics of cornucopia. The other was Nitish Kumar, who played the politics of resentment and responsibility, creating not music but the ritual of musical chairs as politics. Between the two, socialism degenerated to populism and post-Emergency hopes became a set of electoral gimmicks.

Mr. Prasad and Mr. Kumar have almost become folklore characters of Bihar politics, enacting out a *Punch and Judy* routine which seems unbelievable. They seemed doomed together but often built divorce as a part of a dynamic relationship. Mr. Prasad was always closer to the Congress, considering it another family party. Mr. Kumar, portrayed as single and singular, was more prone to flirt with other political possibilities. Despite their socialism, despite the populism, both loved power. It was the one aphrodisiac that kept them going. A party without power was subject to impotency. A party without power lacked patronage, and without patronage the multiplier effect of corruption wouldn't work.

There was a difference in style however. Mr. Prasad was more preoccupied with power to help him play welfare state to his ever expanding family. Sometimes with his association with the likes of



RANJEET KUMAR

Sadhu Yadav and other criminal elements, one wondered whether there was a clear line between crime and politics. The taint of corruption has always haunted Mr. Prasad as he turned politics into an act of conspicuous corruption. What redeemed him at least to some people was his commitment to secularism and identity, which the likes of himself and Mulayam Singh Yadav wore like a halo in national politics.

### Obsession with power

While Mr. Prasad's was a blatant politics of revelry, there was something calculated, almost repressed, with Mr. Kumar. He seemed obsessed with power, narcissistic about his image, paranoid about survival. It is almost as if every move of his was tactical, even fighting corruption. Apart from Narendra Modi, one cannot think of anyone more preoccupied with power and retaining power. He wanted to be a national leader, but Mr. Prasad was more effective as a vote-catcher. There was a sense of being second, even secondary, to Mr. Kumar's career in front of the likes of Mr. Prasad and Mr. Modi. They were more colourful personalities. His dreams of governance were no match for Mr. Modi's. His popularity lagged behind Mr. Prasad's. Psychologically all this must have ranked. In fact his curriculum

vitae shows that this opportunistic politician was a master at playing the shifting sands of politics. Mr. Prasad got it wrong when he complained that Mr. Kumar has slapped the nation. Rather than being "anti-national", he was loyal to himself and that seems the ultimate patriotism of electoral politics today.

His career of twist and turns is amazing. He appeared as a JP socialist, an uneasy twin to Mr. Prasad, in the mid-1980s and switched towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) a decade later. During the Vajpayee regime he was a cabinet minister, content to be second or even third fiddle. In 2005, he became the Chief Minister of Bihar with the BJP's support. In 2013 he broke his alliance with the BJP. In 2017 he has abandoned his dreams of a Mahagathbandhan and done another *Ghar Wapsi*, back to the BJP fold.

### What opposition?

One thing is clear in the ensuing war of words. The old idea of opposition has been blown to smithereens. Nitish Kumar's chances of being elected as an opposition candidate seem over. All in all, it was like a B-grade movie with predictable lines and without the Bhojpuri cameos that would have at least provided musical or comic relief. Watching Mr. Kumar's

body language, both his desperation and his opportunism are obvious. The attention is back on him, and he is ready to script a new role for himself. One thing is clear, he hates being left out of power or history. Conscience, loyalty and patriotism are casualty words in this game of politics. He realises that he is condemned to being a medium-level Machiavelli in the age of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. He senses that his days creating an opposition Camelot are over, that no one takes the idea of the opposition seriously. He now understands it cannot be his next vehicle to national politics. He himself admits a reactive opposition is no opposition. It has neither vision, mission or even the makings of a strategy. At one level, one feels Mr. Kumar has added a sense of cynicism to politics. At another, one senses his hormonal need for power, his desperate need for centre stage. His current tactics have been exhausted. His desperation is the fable of the Opposition's desperation as the Modi juggernaut rolls across India. There is joy in the Modi camp as Mr. Kumar's decision becomes "the need of the hour". Somehow clichés and crises seem wedded together in India. It is obvious that elections are not around the corner. Mr. Kumar's alliance with the BJP will rule till new options become available.

The so-called Nitish Kumar saga has to be seen as a fable of the opposition letting down the people. As one watches the Opposition, one senses desperation. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam look outdated. M.K. Stalin appears like a local politician out of his depth. Sitaram Yechury looks tired, like the ideology he espouses. Mamata Banerjee is too worried about West Bengal and Gorkhaland to worry about a nation. The Congress's standard one-line remarks move between the cryptic and the un-

aware. It is almost as if the dissipation of the Congress has caught up with the opposition. One can sense the desperation of Mr. Kumar as he sees any viable future disappear before him. To survive, he chooses second-best. The BJP must be chuckling to itself wondering how Bihar or Tamil Nadu are falling into its basket like ripe mangoes. All it has to do is to continue behaving like a party whose time in every sense has come. Mr. Kumar's options are limited. He can stay in power but is beholden to a party which understands his only loyalty is to power.

### The BJP juggernaut

Bihar today exemplifies the meaning of a word which is wonderfully appropriate to it. It was coined in the Second World War as an acronym by soldiers forced into futile errands. The word is SNAFU and it means Situation Normal, All Fouled Up. Bihar is a mess such that no one seems to be bothered. Nitish Kumar, Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi Yadav, all seem to be symptoms of the ailment we call electoral democracy. Each of them has decided that what is personally good for them is good for Bihar. The hypothecation of Bihar to greed, pomposity and ambition seems complete, and Mr. Modi, quick to exploit the situation, hails it as a patriotic act. It is almost as if the opposition died its numerous deaths this week, recognising the prospect of facing the BJP juggernaut is futile. As parties become empty and enervated, the BJP's majoritarianism sounds more authoritarian. The so-called Mahagathbandhan has destroyed the dreams of JP, content to be knee-jerk in its commitment to democracy. Musical chairs is the new ritual of electoral politics.

*Shiv Visvanathan is Professor, Jindal Global Law School and Director, Centre for the Study of Knowledge Systems, O.P. Jindal Global University*

## Not just a question of weeks

Parliament needs to take up the long-pending bill on updating provisions for abortion



SATVIK VARMA

On Friday, the Supreme Court of India declined the abortion request of a 10-year-old rape survivor who was reportedly 32 weeks pregnant. Doctors who examined the adolescent opined that an abortion at this stage posed a risk to her life. Under the circumstances, the court could not have done much else. But this decision must be looked at in contrast to the recent landmark decision by the Supreme Court allowing an adult mother to abort her over-20 week foetus. The top court's decision was not the first time that it had made an exception from the existing law. Like always, it relied on a report of a medical board which said that the infant was likely to suffer from a severe mental injury or cardiac problems that would require multiple surgeries. As is evident, leniency is not always extended from the existing legislation.

### An arbitrary cap

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act stipulates a cap of 20 weeks within which an abortion can be performed. While advising an abortion, medical practitioners are expected to evaluate whether continuing with the pregnancy

would involve a risk to the life of the mother or cause grave injury to her physical and mental health. Alternatively, the decision is based on whether there would be a substantial risk of the child being handicapped by physical or mental abnormalities. Notably, the Act also provides that if any of these medical eventualities is likely to arise, then the mother's actual or foreseeable environment must also be taken into consideration.

The 20-week cap is somewhat arbitrary and has drawn rightful criticism. Foetal impairments often get detected at the ultrasound done between 18 to 22 weeks, when the foetus is said to have "substantially developed". But in a country where a majority of expectant mothers still seek advice from midwives and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), ultrasounds are only done when something "unusual" is suspected. Perhaps taking note of this, the government, in 2016, launched the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan under which doctors at private and government facilities are required to provide free antenatal care on the ninth of every month. While ultrasounds are also covered, some ASHAs report that free ultrasounds are often not offered.

In fact, even before this programme, the government, in 2014, introduced the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill. A step forward, it proposed increasing the abortion ceiling limit



from 20 to 24 weeks. It introduced the concept of "substantial foetal abnormalities" – in which case the time period of pregnancy is irrelevant – and widened the scope of who could carry out the abortions by introducing the term "registered health care provider", which included recognised practitioners of Ayurveda, Unani and homoeopathy.

Unfortunately, the Bill is still awaiting approval. The Prime Minister's Office is reported to have returned the proposed amendments and called for stricter implementation of the law. It believes that amendments to the Act are likely to give rise to illegal sex selection and abortion rackets.

### Downside to legal restrictions

In contrast, the World Health Organisation notes: "Legal restrictions on abortion do not result in fewer abortions nor do they result in significant increases in birth rates. Conversely, laws and policies

that facilitate access to safe abortion do not increase the rate or number of abortions. The principal effect is to shift previously clandestine, unsafe procedures to legal and safe ones. Restricting legal access to abortion does not decrease the need for abortion, but it is likely to increase the number of women seeking illegal and unsafe abortions, leading to increased morbidity and mortality. Legal restrictions also lead many women to seek services in other countries/states, which is costly, delays access and creates social inequities."

The WHO report also says that "laws and policies on abortion should protect women's health and their human rights. Regulatory, policy and programmatic barriers that hinder access to and timely provision of safe abortion care should be removed." While at present, petitions questioning the constitutional validity of the Act are pending before the Supreme Court in India, in the past, provisions of the Act have been held to be reasonable restrictions placed on the exercise of reproductive choices. The court has observed that in the case of pregnant women, there is also a "compelling state interest" in protecting the life of the prospective child. Therefore, the termination of a pregnancy is only permitted when the conditions specified are fulfilled.

But from a women's rights perspective, should not a pregnant mother have the right to decide

whether to go through full-term when there is even the slightest chance of a foetal infirmity and not "substantial foetal abnormalities"? It is fair to state that no woman who voluntarily chose to get pregnant is likely to seek an abortion unless there are compelling circumstances. Should not the wishes and desires of the person who will be the caretaker be considered?

Abortion the world over is a sensitive topic. Arguments cut both ways. Each country has its own time limit within which the pregnancy may be terminated, but in most cases it's more than 20 weeks. Given the advancements in medical science, a lot of abnormalities can be determined by an ultrasound midway through a pregnancy. Unfortunately, there appear to be no guidelines relating to the conduct of ultrasounds. As a starting point, we need uniformity in medical standards. Simultaneously, the long-pending Bill, which took into account some of the changed circumstances, needs to get passed. It would be helpful alongside to also lay down objective standards to be followed by health-care providers so that every case does not fall in the court's cradle. If the cord isn't cut, we will continue to rely on court-ordered termination of pregnancies, which, most times, is not the desired route for the delivery of justice in abortion cases.

*Satvik Varma is a litigation counsel and corporate attorney based in New Delhi*

## 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.

### Fission in Bihar

The various comments by Central and State leaders of the now defunct "grand alliance" in Bihar, though diametrically opposing, have one thing in common. Namely, they all interpret the same "mandate of the people" and politicians' commitment to the State. These, by all means, are in tune with our corrupted and criminalised politics of the day. Ideally, whatever people voted for, a split in pre-election alliance, whether ruling or Opposition, indicates a loss of the mandate or the need for a fresh mandate for the particular combine. Creating post-election political groups for power-sharing does not have voter consent. The absence of purposeful laws to ensure adherence to the above will of the people is a challenge to the common man. The continued public demand

for legislating on a "recall of elected representatives" is being ignored by political leaders and parties. Perhaps, only the Election Commission and/or the Supreme Court can save the situation.

P.R.V. RAJA,  
Pandalam, Kerala

■ The drama enacted by Nitish Kumar and the BJP is not the first instance of its kind that has tarnished the fundamentals of Indian democracy. In a coalition, there are bound to be internal troubles. When the Mahagathbandhan was formed, Mr. Kumar would surely have been aware of the corruption charges haunting Lalu Prasad. And the people of Bihar voted for an anti-BJP alliance. We have not forgotten that it was the same Mr. Kumar who led the Janata Dal (United) away from the BJP as he had problems with Narendra

Modi being the prime ministerial candidate and the party's communal slant. If Mr. Kumar was deeply dissatisfied with his coalition partners, he should have dissolved the State Assembly and gone to the people for a fresh vote. His act now shows that his "resolve" to ensure a corruption-free State and his commitment to secularism are just matters of convenience.

S.K. KHOSLA,  
Chandigarh

■ The sudden turn once again impels us to question the suitability of coalition politics in India. That the coalition between the JD(U) and the RJD – which seemed to be a cordial alliance till yesterday – suddenly becoming an alliance of discomfort for the JD(U), demands a clear explanation. The now former Deputy CM of Bihar

was never asked to resign by Mr. Kumar despite allegations of corruption against Tejashwi Yadav. In such circumstances, it becomes difficult to believe that the CM had to resign only because of hardships faced in working with a corrupt coalition partner and waging a war against corruption. At the same time, it drives home the perception that the new coalition in place is more of convenience than one of honest politics. Despite the RJD having more seats in the Bihar Assembly, it was the JD(U) which was allowed to lead the government.

Though not written explicitly in the Constitution, such interpretation of the Governor's discretion in selecting the CM needs a relook. However, this debate is not unique to Bihar. If the new alliance was formed to keep the public's trust in the

government intact and serve the people better, there were other means to do so, one of them being the former Deputy CM's resignation. After all, isn't changing political partners frequently by a ruling party in itself a betrayal of the trust of the public? We need a conclusive solution to this problem before it starts getting replicated elsewhere.

NIKITA GOYAL,  
New Delhi

■ The State of the Railways The CAG report's findings on the state of the Indian Railways are no surprise to frequent travellers. Making ideal regulations on paper without strict monitoring on the ground are as good as

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:  
The graphic titled "BJP - growing gains" (July 28, 2017) erroneously included Himachal Pradesh among the States where the BJP is in power.

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having none. Due to the substandard quality of food supplied, passengers are compelled to buy food from unauthorised vendors. However, looking at the report as a guide to improve only IRCTC's food services will do little good. Making trains free of illegal passengers itself will cut the burden of railways by a large amount. Help centres at each station where complaints can be registered regarding any substandard service, while on board and their immediate rectification, could be a step in this direction.

KIRAN BABASAHEB RANSINGH,  
New Delhi

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# The making of American diplomacy

The Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. State Department trains the largest contingent of diplomats in the world. **Varghese K. George** spends a day with U.S. diplomats preparing to take up positions in India, and their trainers

Over the last three months, Phuong Nguyen has learned a lot of Tamil, a thing or two about Dravidian politics and has figured out why Kattappa killed Baahubali. She has watched the multi-language blockbuster *Baahubali 2* thrice. This afternoon, she and three other U.S. Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) learning Tamil at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) before deployment to Chennai are discussing the weather there, aided by a video clip of a weather report from a Tamil news channel. "Enakku vepbam pidikkum (I like the heat)," says Greg Bauer, an Iowan who had earlier worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cambodia. "In Chennai it is 105° (Fahrenheit) today," the instructor told him, in a promising tone, last week.

The contingent is relishing their Tamil films and can't wait to be in Chennai to test their language skills and smell the filter coffee. "He has even started teaching us lessons from the *Thirukkural*," Nguyen says of Pandiyaraju Arumugan, the Tamil instructor. "I have really enjoyed learning about Dravidian language, culture, and history," adds the fresh FSO recruit who came to the U.S. from Vietnam as a five-year-old. It helps that Arumugan, from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, has shrunken his Dravidian identity to 'Raju', in a concession to the American tongue. "Raju is wonderful and very open in sharing his wisdom and culture," says Nguyen.

## Readyng for the role

The FSI trains the world's biggest contingent of diplomats in a sprawling 74-acre campus in the suburbs of the U.S. capital, before they are deployed to the country's 270 missions around the world. There are 14,029 FSOs under the Department of State and thousands of others are drawn from other U.S. Departments such as aviation and agriculture for postings at diplomatic missions. The deployment of defence personnel attached to U.S. missions adds to it. The State Department does not release country-wise staffing details, but an official said "the U.S. Mission to India is one of our largest diplomatic missions in the world". The four officers in the Tamil class are new recruits, and by early next year, they will start working at the U.S. consulate in Chennai.

A few rooms apart, Michael Rosenthal is polishing his Hindi skills, aided by Pushpa Patel, the most senior Hindi instructor at the FSI's language school. Rosenthal will be heading to New Delhi next month as First Secretary Political at the U.S. Embassy. He needs a proficiency level that will equip him to converse with Indian politicians and parliamentarians. "Political officers need to not merely converse, but also have to understand the cultural universe," says Sandhya Thapar, another Hindi instructor. Visa officers learn the local language with a more functional perspective. Patel has trained dozens of American diplomats in Hindi since 1992 at the institute and at least four of them have risen to become U.S. ambassadors – among them, the current U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Atul Keshap.

Rosenthal has travelled to India once to attend a friend's marriage – growing up in Los Angeles, he made several Indian-American friends – and spent time in a houseboat in Kerala backwaters, but this will be his first posting in India. A fluent Russian and Polish speaker, he is amused by the similarities he is discovering between Hindi and European languages. More amused is he by the number of people that attend an Indian marriage. And he is yet to see them at the political rallies in India.

'Digital India ke Angute Chhap' – digital India's illiterates – is a Hindi news feature clip that he is discussing with instructor Patel this morning. India has more Internet users than the entire population of the U.S. but a large majority of them are barely literate in computer usage, he explains in Hindi after watching the clip.

**India 101 and more**  
Comprehending Indian paradoxes such as these could be a lifelong exercise for anyone, but diplomats need to pick up some soft skills quickly before they hit the Indian road. Among them, how to wrap a six-metre piece of cloth called saree around your body; how to mouth a *golgapaa* without creating a diplomatic crisis of sorts by splashing it all over at a social gathering. Eating with the hand, most of them master soon enough, but breaking a tandoori *roti* using only one hand is a steep climb for most, says Neeti Ahluwalia, another Hindi instructor. "That takes some teaching and learning," she giggles.

Instructors organise a *desi* cooking session at one of their homes during the course. "They go shopping for *desi* grocery, and each one makes a dish," says Vinod Kumar, instructor. Some develop a special interest in Indian cuisines. Matt Williger, now posted in the Mumbai consulate, supplied flasks of masala *chai* every day during the course to instructors and classmates. "He made the perfect masala tea... with ginger, cardamom and all the rest," recalls Kumar, an English postgraduate from Lucknow who now teaches Hindi.

Pictures of Chola Bronzes and Indian landmarks adorn the walls in language classrooms. "Those are too hard for



**Diplomacy at work:** "The FSI trains the diplomats in a sprawling campus in the suburbs of Washington before they are deployed to missions around the world." • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



them at the beginning," Thapar says of the *Panchatantra Kahaniyan* on the shelf. "Learning begins with simple words – *kalam* (pen), *kitab* (book), etc."

Instructors warn India-bound diplomats that at times, even a minor mix-up in pronunciation could turn a polite intent into unintended addition of spice into the talk; and that for some words and phrases, English would serve better than Hindi or Tamil.

The institute has four schools – language studies, professional and area studies, applied information technology and leadership and management. Depending on a particular diplomat's forthcoming posting, they undertake a bouquet of courses picked from multiple schools. For instance, the group headed to Chennai has already spent a few weeks learning about South and Central Asia in the School of Professional and Area Studies, before they moved to the School of Language Studies. They will also undergo some training specific to their next role – for instance, those who are taking up a consular job which involves visa interviews get that training. Between two postings diplomats come back to the FSI – to learn a new language, a region or both. For someone like Rosenthal, who is prepping for his fifth tour in foreign service, and having worked on the India desk at the State Department, only language training is required. This is his third long-term stint at the FSI since 2007, learning Hindi for the last nine

months.

"The concept is to provide training continuously. We try to keep a balance between high academic standards and professional training," says Kiran Pervez, South and Central Asia (SCA) Studies Course Chair. India comes in the SCA region.

## Offering a 'lived experience'

"Bahut accha (Very good)," says Rosenthal of his learning progress. "Lekin shikshak nahin maanti (But the teacher does not agree)," he adds quickly, pausing for Patel's response. But she doesn't take the bait. With the non-committal Indian streak that Rosenthal will encounter at closer quarters in the coming months, Patel declares: "Next month is his exam." Yes, they do take a language test to ensure the required level of proficiency for the next role.

Stereotypes are an entry point to discussions on India and South Asia, and Pervez makes it a point to have a session with a South Asian-American stand-up comedian for each batch. "Visa jokes and wife-and-husband jokes from the region often provide insights into South Asian societal make-up," she says. "To begin with, some are very surprised to learn that all Indians are not vegetarians. The range of knowledge of those who attend these courses vary. Some know very little, some like Mr. Rosenthal know much more than us," says Ahluwalia.

Area studies and language classes both run with the objective of familiarising India and the region as a "lived experience". Strategic issues related to the region are introduced through talks by outside experts, some of them talking to the officers through Skype from the region, and also through interactions with State Department's own desk officers dealing with a particular region. Pervez

invites South Asian film-makers and writers to talk to South Asia-bound diplomats, and stories of the Partition make a lasting impact on most trainees. Pervez shows part of an Indian film during lunch break every day, finishing one over several days. Diplomats clamoured for an uninterrupted viewing of *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, a poignant 2015 film set against the backdrop of India-Pakistan rivalry.

Language instructors relate learning to American cultural context. Erica Cover, the lone student at entry level, is into her fourth session of Hindi, preparing for an administrative job at the U.S. embassy in New Delhi. Her instructor Kashefa Nagameiea is excited about the strides that Cover has made already – letters, numbers up to 10 and days of the week, all in four sessions. Nagameiea, who came to the U.S. in 2004 from Mumbai, has devised unique memory techniques that are helping Cover. Budhvar (Wednesday) is associated with Buddha – the most famous Indian for many Americans, certainly before Narendra Modi. What follows is Guruvav (Thursday) – as Buddha became a guru later, and guru is very much an English word. "Shukravar is Friday. Shukriya means thanks. So, remember TGI Fridays," she tells Cover, who is Nagameiea's fifth student since she started teaching at the FSI last year. "Hindi letters are very similar to one another and trying to distinguish each one is not easy," says Cover. She has just returned from Azerbaijan, and is excited

**C** Visa jokes and wife-and-husband jokes from the region often provide insights into South Asian societal make-up.

KIRAN PERVEZ,  
South and Central Asia (SCA) Studies Course Chair



**Future face:** Helaena White is learning Urdu. She knows Tamil and Hindi. She will be the first full-time Hindi-Urdu spokesperson of the U.S. State Department.

about being in New Delhi.

From Icelandic to Arabic, the school teaches 70 languages, among them Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bangla and Urdu. Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish are the most sought-after languages. "Adult learners of a new language experience peaks and valleys. After the initial honeymoon, they hit a plateau. But then they motivate themselves," says Ann Keller-Lally, School of Language Studies Division Director. There are 700 language learners at the school currently, and the number goes up to 1,600 during February and March, the busy months.

Helaena White is learning Urdu – she already knows Hindi and Tamil – before taking over as the first full-time Hindi-Urdu spokesperson of the U.S. State Department. White will be based in London, and she will give interviews in Hindi and Urdu. Her job will be to "amplify the podium of the State Department spokesperson," she says. So, she won't be speaking only on South Asia, but on American policy anywhere for a South Asian audience. "It is not that Hindi or Urdu media platforms cannot translate what we say in English. It demonstrates the value that the U.S. puts in these relationships, particularly with India," says White. She has done a posting each in New Delhi and Colombo, and lived in Rajasthan as a Hindi student.

## Selection and postings

Americans diplomats are drawn from diverse ethnic and educational backgrounds. Medical doctors, military veterans, lawyers and pharmacists apply for roughly 80 posts in each batch of FSOs. The selection could take place more than once a year. Around 20,000 aspirants compete through a written exam and face-to-face interviews before making the final cut. Some like Ashlie Menard – the third Tamil student – might have already worked for the State Department before being selected an FSO. Rosenthal worked in U.S. Congress and was a Fulbright Scholar in Russia before he joined the foreign service. He

has a master's from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington DC.

While filling in the form, aspirants tick their preferred streams – political, economic, public diplomacy, administration and management or consular. Most part of their diplomatic life will be spent in their chosen field.

Rosenthal is a political officer, but he spent one tour in Kyrgyzstan, the first former Soviet republic where the U.S. set up a military base, as a public diplomacy officer, often talking to students who shouted slogans against "American imperialism". He also worked on the NATO desk at the State Department.

All the new recruits spend the first six weeks at the FSI doing a common programme. At the end of six weeks, on a designated day, they get to know their first posting which involves a lot of drama and excitement. First the names of the countries will be announced, to be followed by the names of diplomats assigned there. They will be handed over a flag of the country they are headed to. At times fiancées could end up oceans apart, at times one would be trying to hide their excitement about going to Afghanistan or Iraq from a spouse or a lover. Some don't share with their loved ones the preferences they have filled in for posting, apprehending pushback. "That day is intense," says Rosenthal. "Some are always looking for adventure, some are always nervous. So on that day, you might see someone who has just got Kabul all very excited, and someone who got Mumbai all very tense," says Pervez. Those who get English-speaking countries will leave within six months, while those who require language training will take up to a year before heading to their first post.

Subsequent postings for a diplomat are based on a match between available posts and the particular diplomat's inclination. Of the nearly 500 jobs available across the world this year, Rosenthal chose New Delhi. "So you are looking at different jobs and the embassy is looking at different people. It is mostly the diplomat's choice, but the embassy has to agree," he says.

The area studies classes usually end with a presentation by each of the outgoing diplomats. "Each one chooses the topic. Someone did one on Diwali releases in Bollywood last year, someone could do one on GST for instance," says Pervez. Holi, Diwali and Eid celebrations have become a part of life in FSI. They learn about South Asia's unique notion of secularism, and about the religion of cricket, and gods such as Sachin Tendulkar. South Asia-bound diplomats also play some cricket on the manicured grounds of the FSI, not much appreciated by the estate manager who acquires flower plants from all over the world and nurtures them here with a lot of passion. "A diplomat is a diplomat 24 hours a day, all day of the year. So the training is aimed to equip them negotiate with a foreign culture with ease and comfort," says Pervez.



**Putting her through her paces:** "Shukravar is Friday. Shukriya means thanks...." instructor Kashefa Nagameiea tells Erica Cover.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Nitish Kumar sails through trust vote

In his 45-minute speech, he took on both the Chief Minister and his new deputy in the Cabinet Sushil Kumar Modi for their "unholy alliance."

"Bihar chief minister and his party always used to speak volumes about zero tolerance on corruption but, did Nitish Kumar not know that my father Lalu Prasad Yadav was a convict in a fodder scam case? Then why did he forge an alliance with him in 2015?" Mr. Yadav asked and added that, "in fact the plot was hatched long ago by Nitish Kumar to sit in the lap of the BJP-RSS".

### Resignation drama

He also said if Mr. Kumar had asked for his resignation, he would have tendered it happily but "no one asked me for this...even I asked Nitish Kumar to draft the copy of my explanation that his party had sought over the corruption charges made against me but he de-

cined...so, what should have I done?"

Later, the Chief Minister said he would respond every word point-by-point, "but at an appropriate time". He reiterated that he had taken decision to part ways with grand alliance "in the interest of Bihar and its development".

"I had got mandate for work and I worked with them [Grand Alliance] for one-third of the time but it was not possible for me to continue further," Mr. Kumar said.

### No support to graft'

"If anyone will do politics for amassing wealth I'll not support them...and, nobody can teach me about secularism...secularism is not to cover-up corruption", said Mr. Kumar, adding, "now, for the first time the moment has come for the same government at the Centre and the State and it will help in the State's development".

## 3 more Congress MLAs quit in Gujarat

Meanwhile, stunned by the exodus of its legislators, the Congress has decided to fly 44 MLAs to a resort near Bengaluru in Congress-governed Karnataka.

"We have decided to fly all MLAs because the BJP is trying to poach them, using money and muscle power and misusing government machinery," chief whip Shailesh Parmar said.

"There is severe infighting and factionalism in the party so it will not be able to form the government in the State," Mansinh Chauhan, a senior legislator and former minister told the media after he submitted his resignation to the Speaker.

The exodus has made the

## + Doval wants BRICS to fight terrorism

President Xi said that having successfully completed its first 10 years, the BRICS in the coming decade can focus on three areas: security communication and co-operation, financial co-operation as well as cultural exchanges. He added that these three aspects should guide the BRICS mechanism, to enable the stable growth of the five emerging economies.

Mr. Doval, in his earlier remarks, proposed that the BRICS should pull its collective weight in shaping the international system, by pointing out that the grouping had grown in "global significance over the years."

"It is natural we should hold a BRICS forum to discuss security issues that impact global peace and stability."

Along with seeking common ground on major security threats with its emerging economy partners, India also appeared simultaneously engaged in resolv-

ing military tensions with China, during Mr. Doval's visit.

**Contradictory ties**  
The contradictory relationship, where collaboration co-exists with serious differences, was evident when Mr. Doval met with China's State Councillor Yang Jiechi on Thursday evening.

The Xinhua news agency reported that in the three separate meetings that he held with the visiting NSAs, Mr. Yang exchanged views on "bilateral relations, international and regional issues and multilateral affairs, and set forth China's position on bilateral issues and major problems."

The meeting between Mr. Doval and Mr. Yang, who are also both serving Special Representatives on the China-India boundary talks, comes amid modest expectations that a framework for a gradual de-escalation of the Doklam crisis may emerge.

## Trinamool backs Cong. nominee

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA  
The united Opposition of the Left and the Congress in West Bengal floundered on the last day of nomination for the Rajya Sabha polls on Friday, with the Trinamool putting its weight behind Congress nominee Pradip Bhattacharya.

The Left Front also jumped into the contest by nominating former Kolkata Mayor and CPI(M) leader Bikash Bhattacharya.

Chief Minister Minister Mamata Banerjee announced her support to the Congress nominee, and said that her party would vote for Mr. Bhattacharya.

Earlier, she had said that her party would support Congress leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar for a seat in the Upper House.

## File nomination papers in Gujarat, where Congress has been hit by defections

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GANDHINAGAR  
BJP president Amit Shah, Union Minister Smriti Irani and Balwantsinh Rajput, Congress MLA who resigned on Thursday and joined the saffron party, filed their nomination papers on Friday for the Rajya Sabha elections in Gujarat on August 8.

While Mr. Shah and Ms. Irani were nominated by the central leadership a few days ago, Mr. Rajput, who was Congress chief whip in the Assembly, was declared the BJP's third candidate shortly after he quit from the House and the party.

### Patel's rival

Mr. Rajput is pitted against senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel, who has been renominated.

Of the 11 Rajya Sabha members from the State, the term of three - Ms. Irani and



Ready for the race: Union Minister Smriti Irani files her nomination for Rajya Sabha election from Gujarat, in Gandhinagar, on Friday. ■PTI

Dilipbhai Pandya (both BJP) and Mr. Patel - is ending on August 18.

The Congress nominee can sail through if he musters the support of 47

MLAs. In the 182-member Assembly, the strength of the party has gone down to 51, as six of its MLAs have resigned. While three MLAs, including Mr. Rajput, quit on

Thursday and joined the ruling party, an equal number resigned on Friday. It is believed that the resignations have been orchestrated by Shankersinh Vaghela.

## Militants target police in Kashmir

### PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR  
In stepped-up activity over Thursday and Friday, militants attacked a policeman, a police station, a former counter-insurgent and the house of a Superintendent of Police in Kashmir.

The policeman was fired upon in Kulgam on Thursday. Suspected militants ransacked an officer's home and the house of a counter-insurgent was set on fire by militants at Bachroo.

The spurt in attacks is being attributed to the police action against the family of a militant, Tauseef Sheikh, whose role is being probed in the killing of a policeman, Nazir Ahmad Tantry.

The meeting between Mr. Doval and Mr. Yang, who are also both serving Special Representatives on the China-India boundary talks, comes amid modest expectations that a framework for a gradual de-escalation of the Doklam crisis may emerge.

"It is natural we should hold a BRICS forum to discuss security issues that impact global peace and stability."

Along with seeking common ground on major security threats with its emerging economy partners, India also appeared simultaneously engaged in resolv-

## Attachment of Zakir Naik's assets under way, says NIA

He was recently declared a proclaimed offender by court



Zakir Naik

laundering charges by the NIA.

He fled from India on July 1, 2016 after terrorists in neighbouring Bangladesh claimed that they were inspired by his speeches on waging a 'jihad' (holy war).

Mr. Naik is being probed under terror and money

According to the 'Middle East Monitor', an online news portal, Mr. Naik has already been granted citizenship by Saudi Arabia.

### Renewed passport

However, there has not been any independent verification of this claim so far. Mr. Naik had his passport renewed in January, 2016 for 10 years.

The NIA, on November 18, 2016, had registered a criminal case against the controversial preacher at its Mumbai branch under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

## 'Cow protection serves as cover for violence'

Panellists equate it to blasphemy laws

### VARGHESE K. GEORGE

WASHINGTON  
Cow protection in India has become the equivalent of blasphemy laws in Pakistan in promoting state-sanctioned mob violence against people, said panellists at a discussion on religious majoritarianism in South Asia on Friday.

Think tanks in the U.S. capital have been generally very bullish about PM Narendra Modi and his style of governance that they find 'decisive' and 'reform friendly' and the event at the Stimson Centre was a first of sorts. "This is an unorthodox topic for a discussion here," said Sameer Lal-

wani, senior associate and deputy director of the South Asia Programme at the Stimson Centre.

Comparing the incidents of lynching in Pakistan on unverifiable charges of blasphemy and those by cow vigilantes in India, Pervez Hoodbhoy, distinguished professor of Physics and Mathematics, Forman Christian College in Lahore said, liberals in Pakistan, who had once looked up to India as a model are now saddened. "The mob that lynched a university student recently in Pakistan for raising questions about Islam on Facebook included his own roommate," he said.

## LS passes Bill for more autonomy to IIMs

It allows them to grant degrees

### VIKAS PATHAK

NEW DELHI  
The Lok Sabha on Friday passed a Bill to grant Indian Institutes of Management the power to grant degrees instead of postgraduate diplomas. It also allows students to acquire Ph.D degrees from the IIMs.

Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "It is because the fellowships of IIMs were not regarded by many as Ph.Ds that there were less students for Ph.Ds to become Fellows. They used to go after doing Diploma here. They used to go to foreign countries and do research. Now research will be done here."

The Bill confers on the 20 IIMs the status of institutions of national importance

and also grants them greater functional autonomy by restricting the role of the government in them.

At present, the Centre has a role in the functioning of the IIMs, including the appointment of the chairpersons to the Boards of the IIMs, their directors and fixing the pay of the directors.

As per the IIM Bill, 2017, a Board of Governors will appoint the director of each IIM. A search-cum-selection committee will recommend the names. And the director will be eligible for variable pay determined by the Board.

Mr. Javadekar came in for praise from Opposition members like Shashi Tharoor for having given the IIMs greater autonomy and "surrendering his powers".

## CAG spots weaknesses in missile defence system

70% scanners in Air Force bases are 'non-functional'

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The strategic missile system, a medium range supersonic surface to air missile system to counter aerial threats were "deficient in quality", according to a report tabled by the Comptroller and Auditor General in Parliament on Friday.

Over 70% of the under vehicle scanners (UVS) installed at Indian Air Force (IAF) bases were non-functional, the report said. It also said that the IL series of aircraft, which provides vital transport support to the IAF during contingencies, "has not been upgraded, and continues to fly with 1985 vintage avionics".

The report comes amid increased threat perception



A file photo of a missile being test-fired. ■PTI

to defence installations in the wake of terrorist attack at the Pathankot airbase in January 2016.

The IAF in February said that out of the 57 UV systems, 52 had been installed and only five were yet to be installed.

However, 35 systems still

## Money play in Gujarat, says Cong.

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
With at least six Congress MLAs from Gujarat resigning from the party over the past 48 hours, senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi on Friday alleged that crores of rupees have been spent in horse-trading in Gujarat by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

He also hinted that the Congress may invoke the provisions of the anti-defection law to take some of the errant MLAs to task. If successful, these MLAs would be barred from contesting any elections for six years. Pointing out that "the anti-defection law is supreme", he said the Supreme Court has on more than one occasion "called defections a constitutional sin".

He alleged that one Congress MLA from Gujarat, Punabhai Gavit, was offered ₹10 crore by the BJP to cross over.

## LJP to join Bihar Cabinet

### AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA  
The Lok Jan Shakti Party, led by Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, will join the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar. Mr. Paswan on Friday congratulated Mr. Kumar for joining the NDA once again.

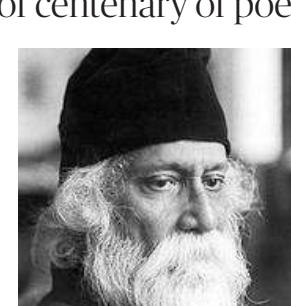
"Better late than never," he said.

"Yes, the party has taken the decision that it will join the new government of Nitish Kumar ... but who will be in the Cabinet from our party, though, has not been decided," LJP MP Chirag Paswan told presspersons in Patna.

However, party sources told *The Hindu* that Pushpesh Kumar Paras, State LJP chief and younger brother of Ram Vilas Paswan, is likely to join the Nitish Cabinet.

## Learn Tagore's idea of nationalism: Trinamool MP

Wants celebration of centenary of poet's book on subject



Rabindranath Tagore are snuffing out lives of people," he said, quoting the book in reference to mob lynching.

"I welcome the Human Resource Development Minister's assurance that the government had no plans to remove the writ-

ings of Rabindranath Tagore from school textbooks. In fact, I would urge him to increase the number of Tagore's works in school books," he said.

**Concern over proposal**  
Mr. Bose's reference was to a news report that the RSS-affiliated Shiksha Sanskriti Uttaran Nyas headed by Dina Nath Batra had, in its recommendations to the National Council of Educational Research and Training, suggested the removal of Rabindranath Tagore's works from school textbooks. The Lok Sabha has also been agitating for a discussion on mob lynching for the past week.

It allows them to grant degrees

and also grants them greater functional autonomy by restricting the role of the government in them.

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The report comes amid increased threat perception

However, 35 systems still

remained in "unserviceable condition".

**Not enhanced**

"Even as on February 2017, over 70% of the procured UVS systems were not functioning or were uninstalled. Thus the security systems procured at a cost of ₹17.09 crore could not be utilised fully for the security of the air bases even after about five years. Besides, the security of the air bases could not be enhanced as envisaged," the report said.

"Strategic missile system is vital for the country's air defence and deterrence capability. Audit found that the system delivered by Bharat Electricals Limited was deficient in quality," the report added.

**It's just a beginning: Imran**

ISLAMABAD "It is just a beginning," Imran Khan, Pakistan's Opposition leader and a petitioner in the Panama case, said on Friday as he hailed the Supreme Court's decision to disqualify Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. "It's clear that we can put a check on corruption." PTI

**The game will go on: Shahbaz Sr.**

KARACHI Pakistan Hockey Federation Secretary Shahbaz Senior insisted that Nawaz Sharif's disqualification will not affect the functioning of the sport's body. He said the former Prime Minister's role in the operations of the federation was minimal. ANI

**'Price for being democratic'**

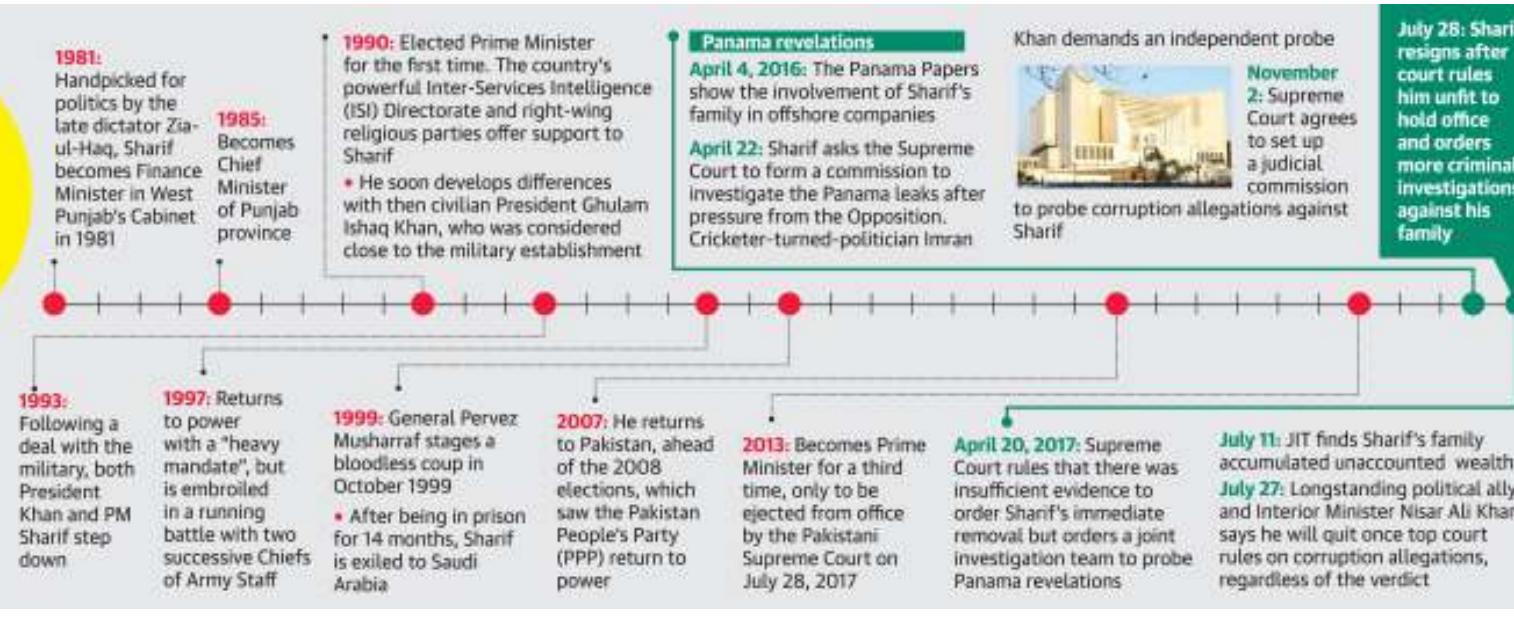
NEW DELHI Defence expert Qamar Agha on Friday said that 'disqualified' Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had paid the price for being democratic in a military-dominated country. He wanted the government to have a greater say. ANI

**My father will return: Maryam**

ISLAMABAD Another elected PM has been "sent home", Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam said on Friday but asserted that her father's disqualification would not deter him from staging a comeback. It would lead to his victory in 2018, she said. PTI

**The rise and fall of Sharif**

Nawaz Sharif was elected Pakistan's Prime Minister thrice, a record, but all of his three terms were cut short



## PML(N) leaders rally behind Sharif

Say ruling party being denied justice

MUBASHIR ZAIDI  
KARACHI

Leaders of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) on Friday mounted criticism on the Supreme Court's decision to disqualify Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from office, saying the ruling party was denied justice, and vowed to file a review petition in the Supreme Court.

Maryam Nawaz, Mr. Sharif's daughter and who is largely considered as his heir apparent, said: "Another elected Prime Minister sent home, but only to see him return with greater force & support & soonest. Insha'Allah. Stay strong PML(N)." She said in another tweet: "PML(N) stands united, more resolute & unfazed. That's also unprecedented. Alhamdolillah!"

**'Review petition'**  
"This decision is not acceptable and we will file a review petition in court," said party leader and former Railway Minister Saad Rafique in a press conference. Former



Pakistani lawyers celebrate the Supreme Court verdict against Nawaz Sharif. AFP

Law Minister Zahid Hamid said the ruling did not give any finding on Panama Papers' allegations and has only sent the case for investigation to the National Accountability Bureau. However, Opposition parties welcomed the ruling. "This was not a personal fight between me and the Sharifs. I fought for the supremacy of law and constitution. Today, I am happy and express my gratitude to the Supreme Court and JIT," Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Imran Khan said.

## India must brace for a spell of instability in Pak.

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

Diplomats and experts on Friday said the resignation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was a setback to the process of dialogue with India and the internal democracy of Pakistan.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, former diplomats said India would have to be ready for a spell of instability in Pakistan following the sudden changes.

"Out of all the Prime Ministers of Pakistan since 1947, Nawaz Sharif is the only one who has held the largest number of meetings – 15 to 20 – with Indian Prime Ministers, mostly in third countries. It is another matter that he has not travelled to India very often, but he did travel once during Rajiv Gandhi's funeral in 1991 and then during the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. His departure amounts to the removal of a partner in dialogue with a country which

has been India's main concern," said Satinder K. Lambah, former Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Mr. Lambah expressed concern over the possible instability in Pakistan over the next few months.

"It is unfortunate that not a single Prime Minister in Pakistan's history has completed a full term and that has been proved with the resignation of Nawaz Sharif," said TCA Raghavan, former

Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan.

**Ties stuck**  
India-Pakistan ties are at present stuck over the disturbances in Kashmir and cross-border terrorism from Pakistan targeting India. Pakistan on the other hand has been accusing India of fomenting trouble in the restive province of Balochistan. Diplomats and experts said the biggest loss, however, would be internal to Pakistan where a pro-

peace lobby was emerging.

Experts said it was unlikely however, that Mr. Sharif's exit will have any impact on the Kulbhushan Jadhav case or the Kashmir issue.

"As of now there is very little bilateral contact so there is unlikely to be any major impact on critical bilateral issues," Mr. Lambah said. Pakistan is likely to go for an election early next year when a new prime minister will be elected. The next prime minister likely to be elected shortly will have a brief stint.

**Irony evident**  
"A lot in India-Pakistan ties will depend on how the transition to the next caretaker prime minister will be undertaken," said strategic affairs commentator Uday Bhaskar, who pointed out the irony that Mr. Sharif began his political career as a creature of the military establishment.

"He emerged as the favourite of the military headquarters in Rawalpindi, but finally had to fight them during the Pervez Musharraf era starting in 1999," Mr. Bhaskar said.

**On technical grounds**  
The glaring paradox is that the substantial charge against Mr. Sharif is one of corruption. The Supreme Court has referred the matter to the National Accountability Bureau and asked it to file criminal charges. This means the original charge of corruption has yet to be proved – and, conceivably, may never be – but the

## Support base: Activists of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) protest against the court's decision in Lahore.

AFP

## Where Generals go free, PMs are removed

Will Pakistan's elected representatives now pressure the Supreme Court to hold Generals to account?

S. AKBAR ZAIDI

Perhaps, the most important observation regarding the Supreme Court judgment and the implications for other Members of Parliament, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

Lawyers and jurists have already started discussing the nature of the Supreme Court judgment and the implications for other Members of Parliament, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) chief Imran Khan, a prime ministerial aspirant who also supposedly has offshore investments. With Mr. Sharif's resignation, while Parliament still stands, the Federal Cabinet no longer exists and Pakistan has no Prime Minister, and even has no government.

**What's different?**  
Of course, this is not the first time such events have taken place in Pakistan. Since 1971, except for Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who himself called

Gilani, the Prime Minister following the 2008 elections after Benazir Bhutto's assassination. Yet, things are different today compared with the more distant or even recent past.

Three things are evident now, which are different from the past. One, that democracy – despite this disqualification of the Prime Minister – is much stronger in Pakistan than it has ever been.

The disqualification of Mr. Sharif was instigated by elected representatives, particularly Mr. Khan. It was the PTI leader's efforts which brought constant pressure upon the Election Commission of Pakistan and the Supreme Court to examine allegations – now proven, it seems – against the Prime Minister.

If the transition to replace Mr. Sharif goes smoothly and Parliament still functions, albeit differently, democratisation will gather stronger roots in Pakistan.

The second major change has been the proactive role of the Supreme Court following the lawyers' move-

ment of 2007. Perhaps, finally, the superior judges have undone their past record and become far more independent than ever before, and taken decisions

**Democracy, despite this disqualification of the PM, is much stronger in Pakistan than it has ever been**

which they believe are based on fact, on the law, and in the public interest. Finally, and most importantly, perhaps for the first time since 1977, the military may not have been involved in the dismissal of a Prime Minister.

Mr. Sharif's party won the most seats and the most votes in the 2013 elections and is still very popular, in fact more than people anticipate. His brother is still the Chief Minister of Punjab province, and whoever rules Punjab rules Pakistan. The many politicians who hope to replace Mr. Sharif in the immediate present, or whenever elections take place, might still have a long

wait. In fact, the court's decision, which they celebrate at this juncture, might just come back to bite them instead. Mr. Sharif might have been removed as Prime Minister, but his popularity and public presence will still endure. Victimhood and martyrdom dominate Pakistan's politics.

**It works both ways**  
One final point worth emphasising is that given this dismissal of an elected Prime Minister who was held accountable for not declaring his assets and income by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, perhaps elected civilian representatives can gain the confidence to pressure the same court to hold accountable the numerous military generals and officials who have done the same, and much more. That might be the true indication of Pakistan's real democratic tradition.

S. Akbar Zaidi is a political economist based in Karachi.

He teaches at Columbia University in New York, and at the Institute of Business Administration in Karachi

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On strategic partnerships in the defence sector, he said it was intended to institutionalise a "transparent, objective and functional mechanism" to encourage broader participation of the private sector in the manufacture of defence equipment.

When a member wanted

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## ELSEWHERE

**Terminally-ill British baby Charlie Gard dies**  
LONDON  
Charlie Gard, the terminally-ill British baby died on Friday. His parents, Connie Yates and Chris Gard, had fought a lengthy legal battle to allow him to be taken to the U.S. for treatment for a rare genetic condition. He died exactly one week short of his first birthday. AFP

**Palestinian shot dead while attacking soldiers**

JERUSALEM  
Muslim prayers at a major Jerusalem shrine ended peacefully, the Israeli police said on Friday but violence continued in the West Bank, where a Palestinian was killed attacking soldiers as forces were on high alert following two weeks of violence over the sacred site, holy to both Muslims and Jews. AP

**Qatar govt. refuses to 'outsource foreign policy'**

DOHA  
Qatar has refused to bow to Saudi-led demands to "outsource" its foreign policy to resolve the Gulf crisis, its government spokesman told AFP in an interview. Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al-Thani, who holds ministerial rank, accused Doha's adversaries in the crisis of meddling in Qatar's internal affairs. AFP

**Brexit transition could last until 2022: Minister**

LONDON  
Britain will try to keep as many aspects of its EU membership in place as possible during a transition period of up to three years after Brexit, Finance Minister Philip Hammond said on Friday. "Many things will look similar" even after the scheduled departure from EU in March 2019, he added. AFP

# U.S. sanctions Bill targets Russia, Iran and North Korea

Kremlin orders reduction in number of American diplomats, closes down retreat

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Senate is sending a package of stiff financial sanctions against Russia to President Donald Trump to sign after the Bill received overwhelming support in Congress. Moscow has already responded, ordering a reduction in the number of U.S. diplomats in Russia and closing the U.S. embassy's recreation retreat.

Mr. Trump's likelihood of supporting the measure is a remarkable concession that the President has yet to sell his party on his hopes for forging a warmer relationship with Moscow. Mr. Trump's vow to extend a hand of cooperation to Russian President Vladimir Putin has been met with resistance as sceptical lawmakers look to limit the executive power's leeway to go easy on Moscow over its alleged meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

**Veto proof**

The Senate passed the Bill, 98-2, two days after the House pushed the measure through by an overwhelming margin, 419-3. Both are veto proof numbers as the White House has wavered on whether the President would sign the measure into law.

Never in doubt, however, was a cornerstone of the legislation that bars Mr. Trump from easing or waiving the additional penalties on Russia unless Congress agrees. The provisions were included to assuage concerns among U.S. lawmakers that the President's push for better relations with Moscow might lead him to relax the penalties without first securing concessions from the Kremlin. The legislation is aimed at punishing Moscow



**Congressional oversight:** The U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The legislation bars President Donald Trump from easing or waiving additional penalties on Russia unless Congress agrees. AP

## Pyongyang replies by firing ballistic missile

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SEOUL

North Korea launched a ballistic missile on Friday, just hours after the U.S. and Japan moved to step up sanctions against Pyongyang following its recent test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of reaching parts of the United States.

South Korean, U.S. and Japanese monitors all detected the unusual late-night test, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe saying the missile may have landed within Japan's maritime exclusive economic zone.

The South Korean military said the missile was launched shortly before midnight, and Japanese monitors said it flew for 45 minutes before splashing down in the Sea of Japan.

The launch came a day after North Korea celebrated what it calls "Victory Day" – the anniversary of the end of the Korean War. Pyongyang regularly times its missile tests to coincide with symbolic dates. There was no immediate confirmation of the type of missile, but the flight time was longer than that of the ICBM the North successfully tested for the first time on July 4.

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Friday said it had ordered the U.S. Embassy in Russia to reduce the number of its diplomats by September 1.

Russia will also close down the embassy's recreational retreat as well as warehouse facilities.

## Scaramucci tirade ignites smouldering WH tensions

Dares Chief of Staff Reince Priebus to deny he is a 'leaker'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's new communications director exploded the smouldering tensions at the White House into a full-fledged conflagration on Thursday, angrily daring Mr. Trump's Chief of Staff to deny he's a "leaker" and exposing West Wing backstabbing in language more suitable to a mobster movie than a seat of presidential stability.

In a pull-no-punches, impromptu CNN interview that he said was authorised by the President, Anthony Scaramucci went after Chief of Staff Reince Priebus in graphic terms. "The fish stinks from the head down," he said. "I can tell you two fish that don't stink, and that's me and the President."

Not even a week into his new job, Mr. Scaramucci accused unidentified senior officials of trying to sabotage



phrenic". He also used a graphic sexual reference to make the point that he believes White House chief strategist Steve Bannon used Trump's election win to burnish his own reputation.

**No regret**

"They'll all be fired by me," Mr. Scaramucci told the magazine. "I fired one guy the other day. I have three to four people I'll fire tomorrow. I'll get to the person who leaked that to you. Reince Priebus if you want to leak something he'll be asked to resign very shortly."

By day's end Mr. Scaramucci sounded calmer, though not regretful.

"I sometimes use colorful language. I will refrain in this arena but not give up the passionate fight for real-DonaldTrump's agenda."

#MAGA," he tweeted. The tag at the end stands for Mr. Trump's "Make America Great Again".

him and committing a felony by leaking information. But the personal financial information that he said someone had "leaked" about him had simply been obtained through a public records request.

Then in an expletive-laden interview published by *The New Yorker* late on Thursday, an angry Mr. Scaramucci accused Mr. Priebus of being a "[expletive] paranoid schizo-

## One dead in Hamburg knife attack

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
HAMBURG

A man killed one person and wounded several others in a knife attack at a supermarket in the German city of Hamburg on Friday before being detained by the police.

"There is no valid information yet on the motive or the number of people injured" by the man, who "entered a supermarket and suddenly began attacking customers", said the police, adding that one victim died from severe wounds. *Bild*

published a photo of the alleged attacker in the back of a police car with a blood-soaked bag over his head, and reported that he cried "Allahu Akbar".

## Sri Lanka set to sign Hambantota port deal

It will slash our foreign debt, says PM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will proceed with the billion-dollar sale of a deep sea port to China despite protests in an effort to slash its foreign debt, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Friday.

The Hambantota port straddles the world's busiest east-west shipping route and several countries, including neighbouring India, had raised concerns China could use it for its own military needs.

The port, built in 2010 with a massive loan from China and named after former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, has failed to generate enough business to

even pay staff salaries. Port workers had called for a strike on Friday to protest the deal, but cancelled it after the government used tough laws to outlaw industrial action.

Mr. Wickremesinghe said the government would sign off Saturday on the \$1.12 billion deal with China Merchants Port Holdings to jointly manage the facility. Cash from the firm's majority stake will be used to repay part of the island nation's huge foreign debt.

The Hambantota port straddles the world's busiest east-west shipping route and several countries, including neighbouring India, had raised concerns China could use it for its own military needs.

An opposition faction loyal to Mr. Rajapaksa scuttled a parliamentary debate on the sale on Friday, calling it a move to privatise the country's assets.

Four months of protests against Mr. Maduro have already claimed 113 lives, according to prosecutors – eight of them during a two-day general strike that ended

## Showdown looms in crisis-hit Venezuela

Opposition calls for fresh nationwide protests ahead of Sunday's vote to elect a Constituent Assembly

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
CARACAS

Venezuela careened towards a showdown on Friday between anti-government protesters and security forces, as the death toll from months of demonstrations against embattled President Nicolas Maduro mounted – as did international concern about the spiralling violence.

The opposition has called fresh nationwide demonstrations in defiance of a new government ban on rallies ahead of Sunday's controversial vote to elect a body to rewrite the Constitution.

Four months of protests against Mr. Maduro have already claimed 113 lives, according to prosecutors – eight of them during a two-day general strike that ended



**Out of control:** Four months of anti-government protests have claimed 113 lives. According to prosecutors, eight of them died during a two-day general strike that ended on Thursday. AP

on Thursday. Among the dead was a police officer who was shot in the head in the northwestern town of Ejido, prosecutors said on

## In blow to Trump, Senate rejects Obamacare repeal

51 lawmakers, including 3 Republicans, voted against Bill

VARGHESE K. GEORGE  
WASHINGTON

A long night of suspense and drama in the U.S. Senate ended early morning on Friday with senior Republican Senator John McCain breaking ranks with his party colleagues and President Donald Trump in casting a crucial vote that stalled the repeal of the existing health care system in the country, popularly known as the Obamacare.

The Senate voted 51 to 49 against the repeal legislation, secretly drafted by the Republican leadership without public hearings or any debate within or with Democratic senators.

Republican Senators Susan Collins from Maine and Lisa Murkowski from Alaska had already declared that they would vote against the move, making Mr. McCain's vote decisive. Republicans have a narrow 52-48 majority in the Senate.

Mr. McCain, who travelled from Arizona immediately after a brain surgery last week, walked into the chamber at 12.29 a.m. on Friday, and voted 'no' with a thumbs down sign. "3 Republicans and 48 Democrats let the American people down. As I said from the beginning, let ObamaCare implode, then deal. Watch!" Mr. Trump posted on Twitter.

The Republican push to dismantle Obamacare involves provisions that aim to cut down or eliminate state support for medical care for the aged and the financially weaker sections and undermining the method of healthy, younger cohort contributing to the kitty to keep care affordable for the aged and the sick. Republicans sought to end the 'mandates' or the provision that



**Decisive vote:** Senator John McCain, who travelled from Arizona immediately after a brain surgery, voted 'no'. AP

makers it mandatory for all to buy insurance.

The Republican argument has been that these measures will increase choice and market competition and reduce premiums. Critics have pointed out that these proposals will lead to millions of uninsured people and a dramatic increase in premiums for people who are old or sick.

It has been estimated that 15 million more people would be uninsured next year, and 16 million more in 2026, if the Republican proposals were to be passed. The legislation voted on Friday included parts of such proposals.

Before Mr. McCain voted, Vice-President Mike Pence was seen talking to him for 20 minutes on the floor of the Senate chamber. He then went out to take a phone call, reportedly from Mr. Trump. He returned to the chamber within minutes and voted 'no'.

**Presidential pressure**  
The Republican leadership and the White House brought immense pressure on Senators to fall in line. Mr. McCain's negative vote was also intended to give cover to many other Senat-

## Japan's defence chief resigns

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TOKYO

Japan's hawkish Defence Minister resigned on Friday over a long-brewing scandal involving the handling of military documents, in a major political blow to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Mr. Abe, who has seen his popularity plummet in recent weeks over several controversies, apologised for the saga. "I apologise from the bottom of my heart to the people for this situation in which a minister resigns," Mr. Abe told reporters after Tomomi Inada quit.

Mr. Abe added he "must seriously accept the people's severe criticism".

Ms. Inada's nearly year-long stint was characterised by controversy, but she resigned over criticism of her Ministry's handling of log reports filed by Japanese peacekeepers in South Sudan showing worsening security. Announcing her resignation, Ms. Inada said: "I feel a keen responsibility."

He urged immediate dialogue, but signalled he was not backing down. Any talks, he said, should happen "before the election and installation of the Constituent Assembly".

Fears of open civil conflict have prompted thousands of Venezuelans to join an exodus into neighbouring Colombia.

International concern has mounted, with the United States, European Union, United Nations and major Latin American nations urging Mr. Maduro to halt his plan. The United States has imposed sanctions on 13 current and former Venezuelan officials to try to force a change – measures Mr. Maduro said were "illegal" and "insolent".



## IN BRIEF



## KVB net profit inches up amid higher provisioning

CHENNAI Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. (KVB) reported 1.37% growth in its standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 30, 2017, at ₹148 crore against ₹146 crore in the year earlier period on higher provisioning. During the quarter, KVB's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) more than doubled to ₹1,807 crore (₹702 crore) and net NPAs surged to ₹1,189 crore (₹306 crore). The provision coverage ratio was 57%.

## Panel defers meeting on Air India disinvestment

NEW DELHI The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, which was scheduled to meet on Friday to get details from the Centre on Air India's disinvestment, postponed its meeting to August 8. The committee had asked the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management and Air India to share details on the government's decision to go in for a stake sale in Air India.

## Samsung hopes to lead refrigeration segment

CHENNAI Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. aims to become a leading player in the overall domestic refrigeration segment soon, said a company official. "Currently, we have an all India market share of 30.5% in refrigerators. When we reach 35%, we will become a leading player overall," said Rishi Suri, director, consumer electronics, Samsung India. "We hope to achieve it by Diwali," he said.

# Regulators shouldn't restrain innovation'

Sandbox approach needed to help nurture fintech: Kant

VIKAS DHOOT  
NEW DELHI

India's financial sector regulators should stop hindering ideas in the financial technology sector and instead opt for a regulatory sandbox approach to nurture innovative financial technology applications, Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said on Friday.

"It is very important that we allow technology to move forward and the regulators don't become restrictors, which very often they do, but become facilitators and creators," Mr. Kant said, stressing that the role of India's regulators needs to evolve as they often became restrictors of growth.

A regulatory sandbox is an experimental oversight mechanism for innovative products and services that do not fall into an existing regulatory regime or cut across traditional regulators' domains. Such innovations are permitted to operate for a limited period of time at a limited scale to understand their efficacy and implications, so that the best alternatives for regulation can be evolved based on concerns that emerge.

## 'Consumer-centric lens'

"The sandbox needs to be designed to adopt this unified consumer-centric lens through a single integrated sandbox, serving all four financial sector regulators... technology will always be ahead of regulation," said Mr. Kant, speaking at a CII event on making India a global fintech hub.

He was referring to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Devel-



**Freeing innovators:** A sandbox can be a great way to unlock innovations for mass adoption, says Kant. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

opment Authority (PFRDA).

"The (sandbox) option can be a great way to unlock innovations for mass public adoption, because a regulatory sandbox balances the twin objectives of nurturing financial innovation and safeguarding consumer interests," the Niti Aayog CEO said.

Stressing that there are over 600 start-ups in the country in the financial technology (fintech) space, Mr. Kant said that letting them operate in a 'live, but controlled environment with some regulations relaxed...' will provide a solid evidence base' on their strengths and weaknesses.

More than 30 of those start-ups are focused on the peer-to-peer lending space alone and their market potential is expected to reach \$5 billion by 2020. Several start-ups are working in areas such as virtual currencies like Bitcoins, Block-chain-based settlements and so on. The total fintech market in India is estimated to be worth \$8 billion and is expected to grow to about \$14 billion by 2020.

"With more than \$17 billion funding and over 1,400

deals in 2016, FinTech is one of the most promising sectors globally. With nearly \$270 million funding in 2016, India is ranked amongst the top ten FinTech markets globally," said a CII-Deloitte report on the subject released on Friday.

Globally, regulatory sandboxes have been introduced in the U.K., Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and UAE. Each country has a certain "target group" for which sandboxing is done. All these countries have so far created a sandboxed environment to support financial institutions (FIs) and fintech firms, the report noted.

## Cryptocurrencies

In India, for instance, since cryptocurrencies are not recognised officially, virtual currencies stored in e-wallets are exposed to hacking and users are exposed to a lack of recourse in case of any problems or disputes. The RBI has been cautioning users about the risks of dabbling in virtual currencies that it does not recognise, since 2013.

The finance ministry has set up a panel to study regulation of virtual currencies.

## IL&amp;FS wins J&amp;K tunnel project rebid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

IL&FS Transportation on Friday said it had emerged as the lowest bidder for the ₹4,899-crore Zojila pass tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir. Last year, the Road Transport and Highways Ministry had ordered "rebidding" for the project awarded to IRB Infrastructure. The project aims at providing all-weather connectivity between Kashmir valley and Ladakh, which remains cut off from the rest of the world during winters due to heavy snowfall.

"We wish to inform that the company has emerged as the lowest bidder for the aforesaid (Zojila tunnel) project," IL&FS Transportation said. The project would be "constructed in a period of 2,555 days (7 years)," the company said in a filing to the BSE.

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## TV PICKS

**Sri Lanka vs India:** 1st Test: Sony Six, Sony Six HD, Sony TEN 3 & Sony TEN 3 HD, 9.45 a.m.

**England vs South Africa:** 3rd Test: SS Select 1 & Select 1 HD, 3.30 p.m.

**Formula One:** Hungarian GP, qualifying session, SS Select 2 & Select 2 HD, 5.30 p.m.

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

**ProKabaddi League:** STAR Sports 2 & 2 HD, 7.50 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



## Warner hits back at CA

Australia vice-captain David Warner has accused Cricket Australia of wrongly blaming players for not resolving a bitter pay dispute saga which threatens next month's Test tour of Bangladesh. "This Baggy Green (cap) means the world to me," he wrote on Instagram late on Thursday. "We offered \$24 million of our money to grassroots as a peace plan. It was ignored. We asked for mediation twice before and it was rejected. Now CA says there is a crisis," Warner said. AFP

## SC's new directive to BCCI

## KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Friday asked the BCCI to respond on a petition filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy to e-auction the media rights of T20 Indian Premier League.

A Bench led by Justice Dipak Misra asked the cricket board to file its reply within two weeks and posted the matter for further hearing on August 22 before the tender process concludes.

Swamy said that e-auction of the media rights should be done to ensure transparency, as it is to be given for the next five years.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the board, said that the tender process has been approved by the Vinod Rai, chairman of the apex court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA).

The court also asked senior advocate Parag Tripathi, appearing for CoA in the main BCCI matter pending before the court, to assist.

Swamy contended that the amount involved in the award of IPL media rights was to the tune of Rs 30,000 crore and the issue should not be decided in an "opaque" manner.

## New role for Sunil

Appointed Indian team's administrative manager

## S. DINAKAR

CHENNAI  
Former left-arm spinner Sunil Subramanian came close to donning the India cap – only to find the honour eluding him by a narrow margin.

Now he will be with the India team in a different capacity – as its administrative manager. "It feels good," was his response when the news broke out on Friday.

It was only on July 15 that the 50-year-old Sunil saw a pop-up from the BCCI app on his mobile that indicated to him that the Board was looking for an administrative manager. His son Siddarth, a promising sailor, had a closer look at it and said, "Dad you fit all the BCCI criteria for the job. You should definitely have a crack at this."

Recalled Sunil in a chat with *The Hindu*, "We then had brainstorming sessions over the next three days where every aspect of the job was dissected. I did fit the bill."

On July 20, Sunil applied for the job. On 25th, he flew down to Mumbai where he was interviewed by Diana Edulji, a CoA member, and then interacted with BCCI

## Abhinav, Kohli tighten the noose around Sri Lanka

With a lead of 498 runs and seven second-innings wickets in hand, India will look to finish the job in quick time

## INDIA IN LANKA

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
GALLE

A sunny Friday featuring a rain-interlude ebbed away with a rainbow in the sky. Inside the Galle International Stadium, India's fortunes mirrored the inter-play of nature. It featured Sri Lanka's resistance before Virat Kohli's men secured a 309-run first-innings lead.

When the third day of the first Test drew to a close, the visitor, powered by Kohli's unbeaten 76 and Abhinav Mukund's 81, scored 189 for three in the second innings and was ahead by 498 runs.

There was no encore from first-innings centurions Shikhar Dhawan and Cheteshwar Pujara. The duo fell cheaply but Abhinav stayed at the crease and offered the exaggerated leave outside the off-stump, the sharp cut and a straight bat.

Dhawan, in trying to cut off-spinner Dilruwan Perera, found the ball a touch late and chipped straight to point. Pujara on-drove a few and as dark clouds cast a shadow on the Indian Ocean and moved over the ground, the batsman flicked Lahiru Kumara straight to a juggling Kusal Mendis at leg-gully.

Just as the clock turned 2.09 p.m., the tropical showers commenced. It was an intense but short spell forcing the players to run for

cover. The skies cleared in a bit, tea was sipped during the intervening period and when play resumed at 3.55 p.m., Abhinav and Kohli were unperturbed.

The drives were on view, Kohli's laced with his characteristic punch, and Abhinav's a reflection of a southpaw's penchant for the off-side. Nuwan Pradeep felt the heat of Kohli's bat and when he bounced Abhinav, the opener moved a touch inside and lashed it away to the square-leg fence.

Together, Kohli and Abhinav added 133 runs in a third-wicket partnership that ended when the latter fell lbw to part-timer Danushka Gunathilaka.

The alliance helped India pursue a mammoth lead that will hurt Sri Lanka in the fourth innings, provided the weather gods don't get finicky.

Earlier, India bowled out Sri Lanka for 291 in the second over after lunch. Resuming at 154 for five and trailing India's 600, Sri Lanka sought assurance from Angelo Mathews (83) and Perera (92 n.o.).

The batsmen refused to be bogged down in their 62-run sixth-wicket partnership. Mathews cut Umesh Yadav and pulled R. Ashwin who also watched Perera dance down the track and despatch one above the ropes.

Against the run of play, Mathews, in trying to loft Ravindra Jadeja over the in-



Standing firm: Dilruwan Perera played the lone hand for Sri Lanka on the third day and his unbeaten 92 checked India's charge to some extent. ■ AP

field, holed out to Kohli at short-cover. At 205 for six, Sri Lanka was technically seven wickets down as the injured Asela Gunaratne cannot play.

Aswin was hoisted down the ground and pulled over mid-wicket and when adjudged lbw to Jadeja, Perera, then on 38, opted for a review that showed the delivery missing the stumps.

was accurate. But when an opportunity arose, Perera had no hesitation in cashing in.

Ashwin was hoisted down the ground and pulled over mid-wicket and when adjudged lbw to Jadeja, Perera, then on 38, opted for a review that showed the delivery missing the stumps.

Skipper Rangana Herath whittled some runs through the reverse-sweep. The same stroke undid him, as a Jadeja delivery skinned the batsman's glove and lobbed to Ajinkya Rahane.

Undaunted by the sight of retreating partners, Perera played his shots. He cut Umesh Yadav fine, toppled

under the riposte – a nasty bouncer, got up and uppercut the next delivery for four.

Perera then slog-swept Jadeja for four and six, while for India, debutant Hardik Pandya got his maiden Test wicket, casting Pradeep.

When No. 10 Lahiru Kumara became Jadeja's third victim, Perera was stranded

in the nineties.

Like the fan wearing a Lasith Malinga-inspired golden-hued wig and holding aloft the Sri Lanka flag all through the morning session,

Perera played the lone hand on the pitch. An effort that marginally delayed India's strangle-hold of the contest.

## 'Batted according to the situation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GALLE

Dilruwan Perera helped Sri Lanka stretch its first innings. The off-spinner said the Galle pitch in the first Test isn't the usual surface associated with the venue.

"There isn't too much turn. This is not the typical Galle pitch. Even on Saturday, I don't think we can look forward to that much of a turn."

"However, this pitch is very slow. When the ball is new, it was turning a bit. When the ball gets old, it's easy to score runs," Perera told the media on Friday.

Perera reiterated that he worked hard on his batting. "Everyday, I try to improve my batting because team needs runs from me when I bat at number seven or eight."

"It's disappointing to miss a century and this is a Test century."

About the aggressive way he batted, Perera explained: "I was batting according to the situation. I had just two wickets around me. So I was

trying to get runs off every possible ball but I didn't want to lose my wicket."

Asked about chasing a massive target in the fourth innings, Perera replied: "We will have to look at what target we are going to get and then take a decision. We shouldn't think of a target but bat the way we can bat."

## Herath injured

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GALLE

## Sri Lanka captain

Rangana Herath suffered a blow to his left middle finger during India's second innings on Friday.

The host team's cricket manager Asanka Gurusingha stressed that there is no fracture and a call on Herath's further participation in the Test morning.

## Being part of the Indian team is a huge bonus'

Abhinav Mukund makes good use of his opportunity in the second dig

## Day in numbers

- 1 Abhinav and Kohli batted together for the first time in a Test although they debuted together in the same game (vs West Indies in June 2011)
- 1 Kohli is the only Indian skipper to register a 60-plus average overseas in Tests (minimum 1000 runs)
- 3 Dilruwan's fifty-plus scores in his last four innings
- 7 Innings Kohli went without a half-century in Tests prior to his unbeaten 76 on Friday
- 81 Abhinav's highest in Tests, surpassing the 62 against West Indies in July 2011

**Brilliant fielding, improved confidence:** The catch (Niroshan Dickwella) and the run-out (Upul Tharanga) gave me a lot of confidence. I have worked hard in the off season. I wanted to improve on my close-in fielding and also my batting. I was quite disappointed it didn't come off on the first day, but

then it happens.  
**Dropping Steve Smith:** I was quite disappointed after the Pune Test because I dropped a sitter off Steve Smith. I wanted to do well because I wanted to be a specialist somewhere. In the Indian team, it is very important that you be a specialist fielder somewhere. I worked a lot with (fielding coach) R. Sridhar. The fitness aspect as well. It is important that you are fit to stand under the helmet for 70-80 overs, so a lot of credit to S. Basu (fitness trainer).

**The dark days:** There was a point of time when I was hesitant to even put on the whites. I wasn't part of any team, I was dropped from my own first-class team. To (now) have this opportunity to be part of the Indian team is such a huge bonus.

**Galle pitch:** When the ball got old, there was assistance for Dilruwan Perera. There was turns towards the end of the day. There are a couple of balls that are skidding on. I think there will be a lot more assistance for Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.



Making amends: Abhinav Mukund played some pleasing shots during his 81 in the second innings. ■ AP

## Belligerent century from Ben Stokes

AGENCIES LONDON

Debutant England bowler Toby Roland-Jones ripped through South Africa's top batting in the second Test on Friday, taking four wickets as the tourists collapsed to 126 for eight at the close in reply to England's first 353, losing seven wickets in the final session.

The 29-year-old Roland-Jones removed both openers and then claimed the key scalps of Hashim Amla and Quinton de Kock in debut Test.

James Anderson took two for 16 and Ben Stokes, who earlier in the day scored a sparkling century, and Stuart Broad each took one wicket, leaving South Africa facing defeat in the third of the four-match series.

The series is currently tied 1-1.

Temba Bavuma and Kagiso Rabada put on 53 for the eighth wicket, but this was the only resistance.

Vernon Philander, the pick of South Africa's bowling on the first day at the Oval, sent down five overs but then left the field again for treatment, apparently for a stomach ailment that also forced him off the field on the first day.



Cutting loose: Nine short of his century and with No. 11 James Anderson at the other end, Ben Stokes carted Keshav Maharaj for consecutive sixes to bring up his milestone. ■ AP

## SCOREBOARD ENGLAND VS SOUTH AFRICA

**England – 1st innings:** A. Cook lbw b Morkel 88, K. Jennings c Elgar b Philander 0, T. Westley c du Plessis b Morris 25, J. Root c Kock b Philander 29, D. Malan b Rabada 1, B. Stokes c Rabada b Morkel 112, J. Bairstow c du Plessis b Rabada 36, M. Ali c Kock b Morkel 16, T. Roland-Jones lbw b Maharaj 25, S. Broad c Amla b Rabada 3, J. Anderson (not out) 1; Extras (b-7, lb-7, w-3): 17; Total (in 103.2 overs): 353.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-12, 2-64, 3-113, 4-120, 5-183, 6-258, 7-279, 8-316, 9-331.

**South Africa bowling:** Morkel 28.2-7-70-3, Philander 17-6-32-2, Rabada 26-4-85-3, Maharaj 15-1-61-1, Morris 17-1-91-1.

**South Africa – 1st innings:** D. Elgar c Bairstow b Roland-Jones 8, H. Kuhn lbw b Roland-Jones 15, H. Amla c Bairstow b Roland-Jones 6, Q. de Kock c Stokes b Roland-Jones 17, F. du Plessis lbw b Anderson 1, T. Bavuma (batting) 34, C. Morris c & b Anderson 2, K. Maharaj c Cook b Stokes 5, K. Rabada b Broad 30, M. Morkel (batting) 2; Extras (lb-4, nb-2): 6; Total (for 8 wickets in 43 overs): 126.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-18, 2-23, 3-30, 4-47, 5-47, 6-51, 7-61, 8-114.

**England bowling:** Anderson 10-5-16-2, Broad 10-4-28-1, Roland-Jones 11-3-39-4, Stokes 7-1-26-1, Root 2-0-5-0, Moeen 3-0-8-0.

## Indians' time will come: Durant

The Finals MVP holds a clinic at the NBA Academy

UTHRA GANESAN  
GREATER NOIDA

He may be an eight-time NBA All-Star and twice MVP, but on Friday, Kevin Durant hoopied with kids and mingled with them, and guiding the first batch of trainees in having fun with basketball at the NBA Academy in Greater Noida.

On his maiden visit to India, the Golden State Warriors forward spoke of how excited he was to be here. While observing that there was a long way to go for basketball to make serious inroads in the country, he expressed hope that an Indian would make it through to the most popular basketball league in the world sooner than later.

"I haven't played cricket before but I know how deep the sport is in the culture here. It will take some time for basketball to take over. But we had to start somewhere and this is a great start," said the 6-feet-10 Durant said in a brief interaction with the media.

"We want to keep growing the game and see more and more kids start playing."

When asked about the possibility of Indians making the cut in the NBA, the 28-year-old Durant said: "It's on



Watch and learn, kids: The Kevin Durant clinic gave the junior trainees at the NBA Academy the chance of a lifetime to observe an All-Star's methods from up close. ■ AP

us NBA players to inspire new basketball players, players that haven't really enjoyed the game before. It's on us and you guys (the media) to show

## IN BRIEF



Akshay joins hands with Bengal Warriors

KOLKATA

Noted film star Akshay Kumar has joined Pro Kabaddi League side Bengal Warriors as a minority stake holder. Welcoming Akshay Kumar, Bengal Warriors CEO Sandip Tarkas said, "There couldn't be a better partner than Akshay Kumar, who apart from being a versatile actor, is known for his extreme fitness routines. This ownership will certainly boost the morale and energy of the team."

Besides, the team hopes to draw more fans because of its association with Akshay Kumar. The actor said, I am delighted to partner with the Future Group to promote a home-grown sport like kabaddi."

## Spain, Belgium replace India in Pro League

NEW DELHI

The International Hockey Federation on Friday confirmed the inclusion of Spain men and Belgium women as replacements for India in the Hockey Pro

League set to take off in January 2019.

The teams were approved as the first reserves earlier in June and their inclusion in the HPL was confirmed by the FIH on Thursday.

Interestingly, the teams attended the first-ever Hockey Pro League Workshop, from July 17-19 – making their confirmation a mere formality.

## Kalisz and Dressel scintillate

Mireia Belmonte upstages Hosszu in 200m butterfly

AGENCIES  
BUDAPEST

Chase Kalisz continued America's dominance of the men's 200 metres individual medley as the United States enjoyed a memorable evening at the World Aquatics Championships on Friday.

Kalisz's win set the tone before rising U.S. star Caeleb Dressel snatched victory in the men's 100 metres freestyle and the American quartet powered to gold in the women's 4x200m freestyle relay.

Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte had dominated the 200m medley event since 2003 and the only American in the field delivered again as Kalisz posted one minute 55.56 seconds at the Duna Arena.

Local favourite Katinka Hosszu of Hungary had briefly lifted the arena noise to deafening heights in the women's 200m butterfly final. Hosszu, 28, set the pace in the opening stages of a race won defiantly by Mireia



Smooth! Chase Kalisz scythes through the water on his way to the 200m medley gold. • AFP

Belmonte of Spain in two minutes 05.26 seconds.

## The results:

**Men: 200m medley:** 1. Chase Kalisz (USA) 1:55.56, 2. Kosuke Hagino (Jpn) 1:56.01, 3. Wang Shun (Chn) 1:56.28; **100m free-**

**style:** 1. Caeleb Dressel (USA) 47.17, 2. Nathan Adrian (USA) 47.87, 3. Mehdy Metella (Fra) 47.89.

**Women: 50m backstroke:** 1. Etienne Medeiros (Bra) 27.14s, 2. Fu Yuanhui (Chn) 27.15, 3. Aliaksandra Herasimienia (Blr)

27.23; **200m butterfly:** 1. Mireia Belmonte (Esp) 2:05.26, 2. Franziska Hentke (Ger) 2:05.39,

3. Katinka Hosszu (Hung) 2:06.02.

**4x200m freestyle:** 1. USA 7:43.39, 2. China 7:44.96, 3. Australia 7:48.51.

## Bhakti beats Soumya

CORRESPONDENT  
MYSURU

Fifth seed WGM Bhakti Kulkarni (8.5 points) beat overnight leader and top-seed WGM Soumya Swaminathan (7.5) to take sole lead after ten rounds of the 44th National women challengers chess championship 2017 here on Friday.

Mary Ann Gomes (8) is

placed second.

## Important results (10th round):

Soumya Swaminathan (7.5) lost to Bhakti Kulkarni (8.5), Nisha Mohota (6.5) lost to Mary Ann Gomes (8), Meenakshi Subbaraman (6.5) lost P. Balu Kannamma (7.5); Srishita Pandey (7.5) bt Kiran Manisha Mohanty (6.5), G. Sandhya (7) drew with Parnali S. Dharia (7), Jyotsna L. (7) drew with Sakshi Chitlange (7),

Arpita Mukherjee (7) bt Lakshmi C. (6.5), Sanskriti Goyal (6) lost P.V. Nandhidhaa (7), Rucha Pujari (7) bt Divya Lakshmi (6); Samridhesh Ghosh (7) bt Harshitha G. (6), Swati Ghate (6.5) bt Aashna Makija (5.5), N.L.V. Anusha (5.5) lost Srija Seshadri (6.5), P. Michelle Catherine (6) drew with Siddhali Shetye (6), M. Mahalakshmi (6.5) bt Stuti Bhanot (5.5).

## Tarun, Likhita reign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Tarun Gakhad and Likhita Srivastava won the under-17 titles in the boys' and girls' sections respectively in the all-India PNB Metlife junior badminton championship here on Friday.

Tarun beat Abhinn Vaishat 21-7, 22-20 in the final, while Likhita Srivastava beat K. Maheshwari Devi 21-15, 21-11.

It was the grand finale, after about 7000 players had competed in eight cities, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Indore, Lucknow and Jamshedpur, to make the grade.

The guest of honour, badminton ace Ashwini Ponappa, the Commonwealth Games champion and World Championship medallist, was happy with such a strong initiative for badminton at the junior level.

**The results: Boys-U17 (final):** Tarun Gakhad bt Abhinn Vaishat 21-7, 22-20; **Semifinals:** Tarun bt Himanshu Dabas 21-17, 21-19; Abhinn bt Bharat Raghav 21-15, 21-15.

**U-9 (final):** Aksh Singh bt Prateek Koundinya 21-23, 21-19, 21-19; **semifinals:** Aksh bt Mohammad Ali Mir 21-10, 21-16; Prateek bt Rehan Ali 15-21, 21-18.

**Girls: U-17 (final):** Likhita Srivastava bt K. Maheshwari Devi 21-15, 21-11; **semifinals:** Likhita bt Priya Konjengbam 21-7, 21-16; Maheshwari bt Mihi Bhargava 16-21, 21-13, 21-4.

**U-15 (final):** Maheshwari bt Aradhya Kushwaha 21-15, 21-18; **semifinals:** Maheshwari bt Anya Chauhan 21-10, 21-18; Aradhya bt Sakshi Phogat 11-21, 21-13, 21-17.

**U-13 (final):** Anya bt Hothrisri Thatigutta 21-14, 23-21; **semifinals:** Anya bt Pallavi Joshi 21-14, 17-21, 21-9; Hothrisri bt Paridhi Chaudhari 21-10, 21-14.

**U-11 (final):** Unnati Hooda bt Prashansa Bonam 21-16, 21-11; **semifinals:** Prashansa bt Anusha Gowda 21-19, 21-13; Unnati w/o. Anusha Singh.

**U-9 (final):** Srijita None bt Angel Punera 22-20, 13-21, 24-22; **semifinals:** Angel bt R. Spoorthy 21-8, 21-12; Srijita bt Pihi Negi 21-18, 6-6 (retired).

## Priya pips Sonika to juniors gold

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Kuheli Gangulee pipped former world champion Tejaswi Sawant by 0.4 point to clinch the gold medal in the women's rifle prone event at the 17th All India Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship in the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Friday.

Chahat Deep Kaur got the bronze, 1.2 point ahead of Anju Moudgil.

They were followed by KC Hema, N. Gaayathri, Lajja Gauswami and Meena Kumari in a strong field of 80 shooters that had all the best in the country including Anjali Bhagwat, Rajkumari Rathore, Elizabeth Susan Koshy.

In the juniors section, Priya beat Sonika by one point for the gold while Ayushi Podder pipped Kinnori Konar for the bronze on count-back, by a marginally better last card, after the two tied on 613.4.

Kuheli Gangulee

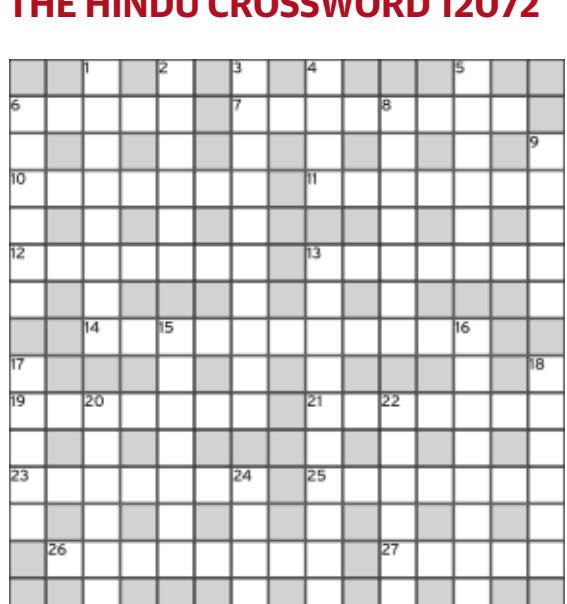
• FILE PHOTO: MOHAMMED YOUSUF

In the junior men rapid fire pistol event, Anish Bhanwala pipped Anhad Jawanda 26-25 for the gold. Shivam Shukla took the bronze.

**The results:**

**Women: 50m rifle prone:** 1. Kuheli Gangulee 619.5; 2. Tejaswi Sawant 619.1; 3. Chahat Deep Kaur 618.6. **Juniors:** 1. K.U. Priya 614.5; 2. Sonika 613.5; 3. Ayushi Podder 613.4.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12072



## ACROSS

- 6 Subject review in college – I'll follow (5)
- 7 US government fences central camp (5,3)
- 10 Brush in use to polish (7)
- 11 Shirker's excuse is well known (7)
- 12 Delay's ok while wearing dress (5,2)

13 Girl under cover finds something crawling (7)

14 Iraq must see settlement in Manhattan (5,6)

19 Cure reported across the continent (7)

21 Time in the middle is outdated, nothing moves (7)

23 About to be framed in gold, at this time of the year (7)

25 Treatment for those people accepting guilt (7)

26 Strategy to make an orchestra keep quiet (4,4)

27 Hunter about to cross port (5)

## DOWN

- 1 Extremely unusual to stride away after royal address (8)
- 2 Friendly setter gets in a turmoil (6)
- 3 Word of comparison between two continents – no rope for mercy killing (10)
- 4 Coin tossed by Kohli, perhaps (4)
- 5 Playgirl controls wild mob (6)
- 6 Urge to look around in the same place (6)
- 8 Land on site – a lay out (7)
- 9 Martial art – floor takes over (5)
- 13 Clearing bill, leaving later (10)
- 15 Ghastly to see carriage ram into horse (7)
- 16 Neck exposed, still transported (8)
- 17 Issue about a flower – it's a scoop (5)
- 18 Know any stray subject? (6)
- 20 Spot weightlifting is good (3,3)
- 22 No help using disinfectant (6)
- 24 The part left in the egg (4)

(set by Arden)

## SUDOKU

6	1	8				9		
	2					8		
9	5	1	4			2		
3			1			5	6	
	9	4	6					
6	1	7				8		
9	4	7	5			1		
1						8		
7						8	5	4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

## Solution to puzzle 12071

T	H	E	L	A	S	T	S	U	P	P	R
I	O	A	M	I	A	I	A	I	A	I	A
M	O	L	A	R	E	L	E	T	O	R	C
P	Y	C	L	A	T	D	E	R	O	N	A
R	O	C	H	E	S	T	A	O	R	T	A
E	O	N	T	E	U	R	A	N	T	U	R
S	A	S	S	A	E	M	I	A	E	M	I
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
I	M	P	E	T	U	T	T	T	T	T	T
O	N	T	E	S	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
N	I	N	J	A	T	M	I	T	A	T	A
N	I	N	J	A	T	M	I	T	A	T	A
I	C	S	T	R	A	U	R	A	U	R	A
S	C	U	L	P	T	R	U	R	U	R	A
T	R	E	D	N	A	A	E	A	E	E	A
T	R	E	D	N	A	A	E	A	E	E	A
C	L	A	N	D							

# Falcons fly into the final

Pitchford and Wu Yang, architects of the win against Maharashtra United

NANDAKUMAR MARAK  
MUMBAI

Inspired by Liam Pitchford's two men's singles wins, Falcons TTK demolished Maharashtra United 14-5 in the first semifinal of the Ceat Ultimate Table Tennis on Friday. The Englishman beat Wong Chun Ting 2-1 and Harmeet Desai 3-0.

Wu Yang, too, won her women's singles matches. Falcons kept their nose in front right through and booked their final berth in the seventh match. As per the rule, a team that reaches 14 points first will make it to the final. The last two singles matches were not played.

In the seventh contest, Sutirtha Mukherjee claimed the first game against an off-colour Liu Jia at 11-10, triggering celebrations in Falcons' camp.

Maharashtra started off



**Relentless:** Wu Yang played admirably, winning both her matches. ■ PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

well with higher-ranked Wong Chun Ting beating Sanil Shetty 2-1. The Indian's relentless attacking did rattle Chun in the second game, but the World No. 8 played

patiently to assert himself in the third.

Sanil's hopes of a fight-back were dashed by Wong's solid defence and anticipation.

## ULTIMATE TT

Yang put Falcons back on track with a spectacular win over Pooja Sahasrabudhe.

Wong's return against Pitchford, after a mixed doubles win by Harmeet Desai and Fu Yu, had the local fans on their feet.

But the Englishman was too good for Chun, winning the match 11-8, 9-11, 11-4.

### The results (semifinal):

Falcons TTC bt Maharashtra United 14-5 (Sanil Shetty lost to Wong Chun Ting 8-11, 11-5, 3-11; Wu Yang bt Pooja Sahasrabudhe 11-2, 11-4, 11-2; Sanil Shetty & Lee Ho Ching lost to Harmeet Desai & Fu Yu 6-11, 11-5, 5-11; Liam Pitchford bt Wong Chun Ting 11-8, 9-11-4; Wu Yang bt Liu Jia 11-5, 11-5, 11-6; Liam Pitchford bt Harmeet Desai 11-6, 11-10, 11-7; Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Liu Jia 11-10).

# Titans begin campaign in style

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

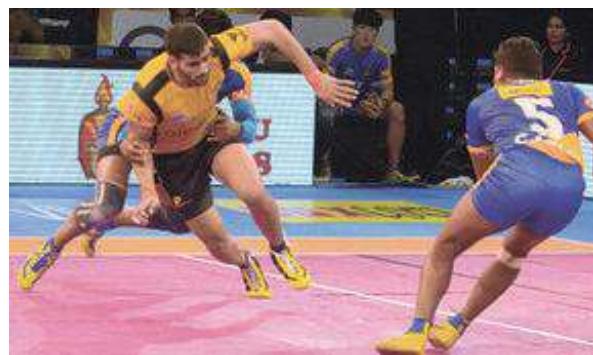
Strong contender Telugu Titans began its campaign in style with a 32-27 win over debutant Tamil Thalaivas in the opening game of the Vivo ProKabaddi League season five at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here on Friday.

It was apparent from the start that the Chennai outfit was struggling to settle down against a relatively experienced opponent.

With Rahul Chaudhari once again leading from the front, Titans were rarely tested.

Talaivas, led by Ajay Thakur, found the going tough. The skipper later admitted that Rahul's speed and skills were just too good.

He also said the young players in the team were too "excited" by the ambience of the opening game, which was watched by team owners Sachin Tendulkar and N. Prasad, apart from a host of



**Leading from the front:** Rahul Chaudhari's speed and skills were too good for Tamil Thalaivas. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

## PKL

other celebrities.

Talaivas fared much better in the second session. Ajay made his presence felt and the defence put up a fight, with even Rahul returning with an empty raid.

Rahul later said it was important for the team to start on a winning note in front of the home crowd. "We got the momentum now and

hope to continue in this three-month-long league," said a smiling Rahul.

In the second match of the evening, Puneri Paltan scored a 33-21 win over U Mumba. With Deepak Hooda and Sandeep Narwal rising to the occasion, the Pune outfit had little difficulty in quelling the challenge of the opposition.

**The results:** Telugu Titans bt Tamil Thalaivas 32-27; Puneri Paltan bt U Mumba 33-21.

Bhambri loses to Shapovalov

SPORTS BUREAU  
GRANBY, CANADA

Yuki Bhambri was beaten 4-6, 6-0, 6-3 by fourth seed Denis Shapovalov in the second round of the \$100,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Granby.

In the \$15,000 ITF women's event in Targu Jiu, Romania, Riya Bhatia made the doubles final with Oana Gavrilă.

Ankita Raina and Sofia Shapatava crashed out of the \$80,000 ITF women's event in Prague.

**The results:** \$100,000 Challenger, Granby: Second round: Denis Shapovalov (Can) bt Yuki Bhambri 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.

\$25,000 Futures, Tianjin, China: Quarterfinals: Shuichi Sekiguchi (Jpn) bt Karunuday Singh 6-3, 7-6(3).

\$25,000 Futures, Xativa, Spain: Second round: Jaume Pla Malfeita (Esp) bt Ahinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-0, 6-0; Marc Giner (Esp) bt Aryan Goveas 6-2, 7-6(2).

\$15,000 Futures, Cairo: Quarterfinals: Anirudh Chandrasekar & P.C. Vignesh bt Filip Duda (Cze) & Issam Haitham Tawee (Egy) 7-6(2), 6-4.

\$80,000 ITF women, Prague: Quarterfinals: Anastasia Potapova (Rus) & Dayana Yastremska (Ukr) bt Sofia Shapatava (Geo) & Ankita Raina 6-0, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF women, Tampere, Finland: Second round: Daiana Negreanu (Rou) w/o. Kyra Shroff. Doubles quarterfinals: Anna Iakovleva (Rus) & Gulyalara Nazarova (Ukr) w/o. Diana Negreanu (Rou) & Kyra Shroff.

\$15,000 ITF women, Hong Kong: Semifinals: Zhang Ling (Chn) bt Kanika Vaidya 6-4, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh: Quarterfinals: Ola Abou Zeikry (Egy) & Eleni Kordolaimi (Gre) bt Nadia Echeverria Alamm (Ven) & Tanisha Rohira 6-0, 6-0.

\$15,000 ITF women, Targu Jiu, Romania: Semifinals: Oana Gavrilă (Rou) & Riya Bhatia bt Ioana Gaspar & Gabriela Talaba (Rou) 6-2, 6-4.

# Japan prevails over China

India downs Lebanon to make the final

ASHWIN ACHAL  
BENGALURU

Defending champion Japan and powerhouse China put on a scintillating show in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup semifinal here on Friday, with Japan emerging a close 74-71 winner.

In the absence of injured star point guard Asami Yoshida, it was up to Manami Fujioka to lead the Japan side. Equipped with the acceleration of a sprinter, to go along with dazzling ball-handling skills, Manami (19 points, 14 assists) proved to be unstoppable.

The 23-year-old ran up and down the court with manic energy, and found her open teammates with a pinpoint assist. If China posed a threat as the bigger team, Manami and her teammates nullified it with speed.

On the other side of the fence, China had its own set

of skilled hoopsters. South-paw Shoa Ting, the quintessential forward, skipped through the lane and finished near the rim. When left unmarked, she took clean jump-shots. She was not afraid to get physical either, using a sharp shoulder charge or two to clear some space.

When Ting drew a double-team, Li Yueru stepped up. The 6'7" centre scored easy buckets with a neat hook-shot from under the board. The two evenly-matched sides went toe to toe throughout the encounter.

From being down 60-69 in the final quarter, Japan brought it to 68-69 through some electric fast-breaks from Nagaoka Moeko.

If the home side emerges victorious, it will qualify to Division A for the next edition of the championship.



**Speedy:** Japan's Manami Fujioka, right, proved to be unstoppable against China. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

### The results (semifinals):

**Division A:** Australia 81 (Kelsey Griffin 16, Alanna Smith 12, Lauren Mansfield 10, Sara Blicavs 10) bt South Korea 64 (Sungyoung Sim 14, Leeseul Kang 14, Hui Lim Lung 12); Japan 74 (Manami Fujioka 19, Yuki Miyazawa 16, Nagaoka Moeka 14, Takada Maki 13) bt China 71 (Shoa Ting 16, Li Yueru 13, Gao Song 13).

**Division B:** Kazakhstan 77 (Zalina Kurazova 24, Nadezhda Kondrakova 18) bt Uzbekistan 51 (Anastasiya Sevastyanova 19, Irina Averyanova 13, Aliya Samatova 10); India 79 (P.S. Jeena 20, Raspreet Sidhu 17, Anitha Paul Durai 13) bt Lebanon 69 (Akli Rebecca 20, Charif Chirine 17, M. Lama 16).

## CHESS

# Harikrishna registers his first win

AGENCIES

BIEL (SWITZERLAND)

P. Harikrishna, playing white, bounced back from three straight draws to out-class local star Noel Studer in the fourth round of the

Biel Chess Festival here.

The win enabled the Indian to retain the joint second position, along with three others, with 2-1/2 points. Etienne Bacrot leads with 3 points.

# Six new faces in Indian hockey squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Chikte, Suraj Karkera.

**Defenders:** Dipsan Tirkey, Kothajit Singh, Gurinder Singh, Amit Rohidas, Varun Kumar.

**Midfielders:** S.K. Uthappa, Harjeet Singh Manpreet Singh (captain), Chinglensana Singh (vice-captain), Sumi Nilakanta Sharma;

**Forwards:** Mandeep Singh, Ramandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Gurjant Singh;

**Goalkeepers:** Akash Anil

## Press Trust of India

Six uncapped players have been named in the Manpreet Singh-led Indian hockey squad for the tour of Belgium and Netherlands. The European tour begins with India taking on Belgium on August 9 in Boom.

### The squad:

**Goalkeepers:** Akash Anil



Under the aegis of

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Government of India

# India eyes the future...



"With growing middle class and the growing economy, per capita consumption of polymers is going to grow."

- Narendra Modi

## CHIEF GUEST

### Ananth Kumar

Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers  
Govt. of India

## GUESTS OF HONOUR

Dharmendra Pradhan  
MOS (IIC) for Petroleum & Natural Gas  
Govt. of India

Nitin Patel  
Dy. Chief Minister  
Govt. of Gujarat

Mansukh L Mandaviya  
MOS for Chemicals & Fertilizers  
Govt. of India

29th July 2017, 9:30 am

at  
Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

\*Entry by invitation only

# 6<sup>th</sup> Petrochemical Conclave

Theme : India Petrochemicals 2030 – Opportunities and Challenges

## INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- India to drive global petrochemicals growth in the next decade
- Size of Indian petrochemicals industry estimated at USD 40 Billion
- Double-digit growth registered over the last decade
- A big contributor to employment generation
- 70 international petrochemical companies participating in Conclave

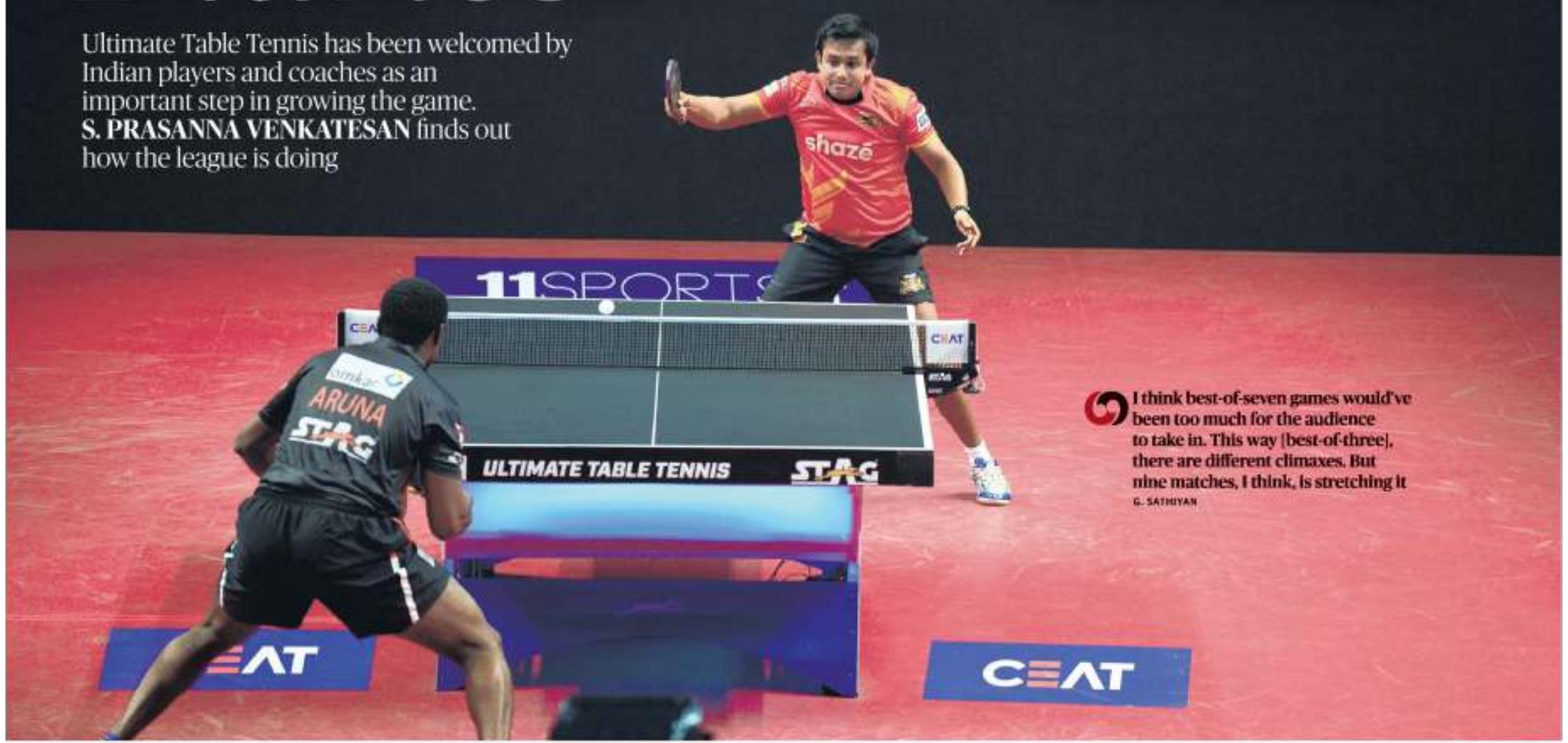


For details, log on to  
[www.petrochemconclave.com](http://www.petrochemconclave.com)

# The Ping Pong Diaries

Ultimate Table Tennis has been welcomed by Indian players and coaches as an important step in growing the game.

**S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN** finds out how the league is doing



**Proving a point:** The likes of Soumyajit Ghosh, Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra, G. Sathiyan and Madhurika Patkar have shown they can compete with the world's best.

■ R. RAGU,  
M. VEDHAN & PTI

**A** high-profile league is how a sport best draws attention these days. And it's no surprise that table tennis has found the trend irresistible.

Ultimate Table Tennis has been welcomed unreservedly by Indian players and coaches – they figure that there is scope to better it, but are quick to pick positives, firmly in the knowing that the league is just-born.

There was an interesting incident during the Chennai leg that only the scribes cov-

his name, indeed a league everyone is heavily betting on to raise public awareness.

Thankfully, the audience – disappointingly sparse in Chennai – was well aware of who he was. "They should frequently show the line-up on the big screen," said Sharath. "Or, the audience should be given a pamphlet with all the details."

"For instance, [squash star] Joshua Chinappa came one day and didn't know anything about the format. In a sense, she came to watch me play, saw [my] doubles match, and left, thinking that I was done for the day," he added.

Sharath said the league had to be held regularly, and lengthened, if it is to impact the sport in the country.

"It's a start," he said. "We cannot have a one-year league straightaway. Foreign players will not come. They don't know India. They don't know how it will be organised. But, now, those who are here will surely spread the word that it's professional, it's worth the time and effort."

"[But] to develop the sport from the grassroots, we need a six-month league at least; you can't do much in 15 days. Then, more will play, more

will watch, and there will definitely be improvement."

Sharath cited the example of the German Bundesliga, where he signs a 10-month contract every year. Factor in the German Cup and the Champions League, and he gets about 36 matches a year against international-quality opposition. This, besides matches for India. Someone who stays in India does not log the same competitive game-time. In fact, former India coach Peter Engel believed that Indian players didn't have sufficient exposure against world-class talent.

Another thing Sharath was driving at is the benefit of having a clear-cut schedule; he knows what he's playing, and when and where he's playing them, till August 2018.

The event is attractively packaged, especially for television. There is a tunnelled opening the players come out from when announced. They walk down a short ramp to the centre-stage – the table set on a red floor, bordered by billboards. On one side of the centre-stage, the competing teams sit, parallel to the action. This

allows the cameras to pan and capture the mood in the dugout.

"It looked great on TV," said K.R. Raji, a viewer who got hooked. "The way the players came in, the drama in the dugout... the red surface, especially."

The reach of the broadcast is something everyone in Indian table tennis circles is excited about. "I think this will have an impact on the kids," said V. Chandrasekar, three-time National champion and coach. "I just hope that the kids who watch it get interested and influenced in a big way."

"The commentary is an important aspect," Chandra explained. "If you look at cricket, it adds in a big way to the viewing experience. Even if the commentary here is at least 25 per cent as good as it is in other sports it will be a big positive."

The viewers *The Hindu* spoke to felt the commentary – fronted by official ITTF commentator Adam Bobrow and former player Neha Aggarwal – was a good mix of wit and insight.

Innovation takes time setting, and the period of adaptation is often marked by

mixed reactions.

UTT's format, for instance, needed some getting used to, for both players and spectators.

Each Tie has nine matches, three games to a match. All games are played irrespective of whether the match is settled in two – because the Tie's winner is decided on the aggregate of games won.

This needed a change in mindset.

The idea of hosting all nine matches on one table came in for praise from journalists who have seen it all. They felt it prevented the scattering of attention.

They were also happy with the match-data available on the league's website – plenty to play with.

The 10-second serve rule was welcomed less warmly by the players.

"It's not easy," said Sharath. "[After] a couple of especially long rallies, we were still breathing heavy, but had to serve immediately."

"It's just that we are not used to it. Many times, you are still bouncing the ball, preparing yourself."

"Normally, there is no time limit as such. You can walk around a little and all that, but you cannot delay

the play," said Sharath.

The format also forced tactical change.

"In general, when you win the toss, you receive," said Sharath. "But here you need to serve. Because, if it comes to 10-all in the third game [with a golden point deciding games], it's better you're serving them."

G. Sathiyan, who represents Dabang Smashers, felt that the best-of-three system enabled upsets, increasing the uncertainty quotient and keeping the viewers interested.

"I think best-of-seven would've been too much for the audience to take in. This way [best-of-three], there are different climaxes. But nine matches, I think, is stretching it

G. SATHIYAN

between Manika Batra and Wu Yang in the first week, that spanned 15 seconds.

It's a given that the native players will only gain – they get to pick the brains and plays of superior competitors.

There is no better way than to "watch and learn", said Sharath. "Young Indian players like Archana Kamath [17] will benefit the most actually. They get exposed to different styles of play."

"Take [Nigerian] Quadri Aruna, for instance. He is excellent with his forehand. Par Gerell is one of the best servers in the world now."

The other thing the league has visibly done is help Indian players unlock new levels of their potential.

Evidence: Sathiyan, ranked 110, beat World No. 23 Stefan Fegerl in Chennai, and went on to defeat World No. 8 Wong Chun Ting in New Delhi.

Madhurika Patkar overcame higher-ranked opponents as well.

If nothing else, Indian table tennis' brush with television and world-class talent has begun promisingly.

**I think this will have an impact on the kids. I just hope that the kids who watch it get interested and influenced in a big way**

V. CHANDRASEKAR  
Three-time National champion

erit it were privy to, which hinted at what the sport is in dire need of – visibility.

India's top paddler and World No. 43 Sharath Kamal wanted, one day, to enter the media zone. Although players are allowed access to all parts of the stadium, he was stopped. The security guard didn't recognise him, and a young journalist had to step in. This, in a league Sharath plays, a league in which loudspeakers boom

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**Who is best known for it?** 'Bullet' Bob Hayes is famous for having shot past four athletes and eventually winning the 4x100m gold for USA in the 1964 Olympics. Jamaicans Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce are the most notable anchor-runners of the last decade.

**Why is the anchor important?** Most often, a relay team lines up as follows: second-fastest, third-fastest, slowest and fastest. A good start is always the first goal – even if only for psychological reasons – but races are won in the end. The fastest are saved for the two important phases.

## WORD PLAY

### Anchor

### ON THE BOX

### STACKING UP



**Football:** SAT: International Champions Cup, Chelsea v Internazionale, 5 P.M., TEN 2; SUN: International Champions Cup, Man City v Tottenham, 3.30 A.M.; Real Madrid v Barcelona, 5.30 A.M.; Roma v Juventus, 1.30 A.M., TEN 2.

**Aquatics:** SUN: FINA World Championships, Swimming, 12.50 P.M., STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

**Table Tennis:** SAT & SUN: Ultimate TT, 7.40 P.M., STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

**Hungarian GP:** SAT: Qualifying, 5.25 P.M., STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD; SUN: Race day, 5.25 P.M., STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

**Golf:** SAT & SUN: RBC Canadian Open, 10.30 P.M., NEO SPORTS.

**Tennis:** SAT: German Tennis Championships, 3.30 P.M. & 6.30 P.M., SONY ESPN HD; SUN: German Tennis Championships, 6.30 P.M., SONY ESPN HD.

**ProKabaddi League:** SAT: Jaipur Pink Panthers v Dabang Delhi, 7.50 P.M., Telugu Titans v Patna Pirates, 9 P.M., STAR SPORTS 2 & HD, HINDI & HD; TAMIL SUN: U Mumba v Haryana Steelers, 7.50 P.M.; Telugu Titans v Bengaluru Bulls, 9 P.M., STAR SPORTS 2 & HD, HINDI & HD, TAMIL.

**Super Boxing League:** SAT & SUN: 7 P.M., SONY ESPN.



#### F1 Standings

#	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS
1	Sebastian Vettel	Ferrari	177
2	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	176
3	Valtteri Bottas	Mercedes	154
4	Daniel Ricciardo	Red Bull	117
5	Kimi Räikkönen	Ferrari	98
6	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	57
7	Sergio Pérez	Force India	52
8	Esteban Ocon	Force India	43
9	Carlos Sainz Jr.	Toro Rosso	29
10	Nicola Larini	Toro Rosso	26
11	Felipe Massa	Williams	23
12	Lance Stroll	Williams	18
13	Romain Grosjean	Haas	18
14	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	11
15	Pascal Wehrlein	Sauber	5
16	Daniil Kvyat	Toro Rosso	4
17	Fernando Alonso	McLaren	2
18	Jolyon Palmer	Renault	0
19	Marcus Ericsson	Sauber	0
20	Stoffel Vandoorne	McLaren	0

#### ODI Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	South Africa	50	5,957	119
2	Australia	47	5,505	117
3	India	40	4,579	114
4	England	50	5,645	113
5	New Zealand	32	3,114	99
6	Pakistan	31	2,868	93
7	Sri Lanka	32	2,937	92
8	West Indies	26	1,940	75
9	Bangladesh	17	1,171	69
10	Zimbabwe	10	0	0

#### T20I Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	New Zealand	13	1,625	125
2	England	16	1,962	123
3	Pakistan	20	2,417	121
4	West Indies	19	2,222	117
5	India	19	2,183	115
6	Australia	13	1,431	110
7	South Africa	18	1,983	110
8	Sri Lanka	20	1,896	95
9	West Indies	25	2,157	86
10	Bangladesh</td			



**Returning to his roots:** Instituto Projeto Neymar Junior (INJR), situated a few blocks from the Brazilian footballer's childhood home, below, seeks to ensure quality life and education to around 3,000 children. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## The human side of a global superstar

Through his foundation for children, Neymar is inspiring a social revolution in Praia Grande, the Brazilian town he grew up in

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

**A**s the whir of an approaching helicopter turned into a deafening roar, the few hundreds who had gathered at the Instituto Projeto Neymar Junior (INJR) in the sleepy neighbourhood of Jardim Gloria in Praia Grande, Brazil, knew that their hero had arrived.

For Neymar Junior, the nimble-footed maestro, this was a return to his roots, to the town that had cradled his aspirations of joining the ranks of the great Selecao.

The venue reverberated with shouts of "Neymar... Neymar," the Barcelona forward choosing to appear in his native Brazilian colours after completing the second leg of a long journey from his present Catalan "home".

The INJR – which Neymar invested about \$8 million to set up – ensures quality education and life to around 3,000 children who reside and learn there. Spread on an 8,400 square metre campus, it houses a football pitch, a swimming pool and an indoor stadium apart from the main building.

This human side of Neymar is in stark contrast to

Neymar is a visionary. There are very few players of his age who think of donating a chunk of their earnings to development

JOEL MORAES  
INJR coordinator

some of the unflattering reports of his off-field life as a superstar.

He has been plagued by a tax fraud case, and was ordered to pay \$52 million in fines and back taxes last year. He was, this week, reportedly cleared of any criminal charges by a Brazilian court.

The 25-year-old has also been criticised in some quarters for extravagant spending and partying with celebrities (to which he once replied that what he did in his time with the money he earned was his, and no one else's, concern).

Joel Moraes, the coordinator of INJR, shines a light on the footballer's philanthropic side. "Neymar is a visionary," he says. "There are very few players of his age who think of donating a chunk of their earnings to social development." Joel was the mentor of Neymar Senior, the man responsible for shaping the professional career of Neymar Junior and the birth of the INJR.

"FC Barcelona is already our partner and we also collaborate with Socrates Junior, the son of the former Brazilian captain, who has 10 years' experience in social work."

"He [Neymar Senior] came to study physical education and sports management at the

Unisantos University in Santos in 2005, when Junior was around 14. He



wanted to see his son grow up the right way as a footballer," reveals Joel, who was asked to forsake his academic career and manage the INJR.

"FC Barcelona is already our partner and we also collaborate with Socrates Junior, the son of the former Brazilian captain, who has 10 years' experience in social work."

"The INJR has brought about a remarkable social transformation in the region by involving the families. There is no violence on the streets, no problem with drugs... all because of the powerful image of Neymar Junior," claims Joel.

Neymar Senior wants the kids of the region to get the same benefits and opportunities his son enjoyed.

"Neymar Senior could see in his son the spark of brilliance as a footballer and

enrolled him in the famous Santos FC where he started his professional career," says Joel. "The household did not have the luxury of a car so Neymar Junior had to travel by bus to train at the club which is about an hour's drive from here," the INJR coordinator says.

Neymar Junior appears aware of his responsibilities not only as a father to son Davi Lucca, but also as a father figure to the kids in the region. "He [Neymar Junior] saw in his father the dedication and sacrifice to give him the best life," says Joel. "Now he is returning the favour to the society through the Institute which stands just four blocks from where he grew up as a child."

(The author was in Praia Grande recently on the invitation of Red Bull India, which organised a multi-nation five-a-side football tournament.)

### Round 11: Hungarian GP

HUNGARORING

SPEED KM/H GEAR

SECTOR TIME T3 23.0 1:22.0

LAP AND SECTOR TIMES ARE BASED ON 2016 SIMULATION DATA | GEARS ARE BASED ON 2015 DATA

SOURCE: FIA

LAP RECORD: 1:19.071 M. SCHUMACHER [2004]

DRS ACTIVATION

CIRCUIT

RUN-OFF AREAS

START FINISH

DRS DETECTION MARSHAL POSTS

LIGHT PANELS

FIA MEDICAL & SAFETY CARS

NUMBER OF LAPS: 70

CIRCUIT LENGTH: 4.4KM

RACE DISTANCE: 306.63KM



overtake stick, pole position plays a critical role

It gets very hot at times and tyre degradation could play a decisive role. Pirelli has nominated the supersoft, soft and medium compounds

With short straights and a low premium on brute horsepower, expect the likes of Red Bull and even McLaren to be strong

Like at Silverstone, Lewis Hamilton goes well in Hungary, having won the event five times (2007, 2009, 2012, 2013, and 2016)

COMPILED BY: S. DIPAK RAGAV

### WINDOW SHOPPING

#### Mission Invincible

5. Sudarsan analyses what Juventus is doing to maintain its superiority at home and go one better in the Champions League

##### JUVENTUS

Unlike Antonio Conte, Massimiliano Allegri has developed Juventus into a tactically flexible unit that can play a 3-5-2, a 4-3-3 or a 4-2-3-1.

The 4-2-3-1 system the Italian adopted midway last season produced a wonderful sequence of wins, culminating in the domestic double, and based on his summer recruitment, this seems the favoured formation.

The arrival of Federico Bernardeschi from Fiorentina and winger Douglas Costa (on loan from Bayern Munich), and the decision to sell centre-back Leonardo Bonucci are signals that Allegri has made up his mind.

Bernardeschi's skill and explosive pace make him the perfect No. 10 behind Gonzalo Higuain.

Juventus' lack of goals in the Champions League was down to its over-reliance on Paulo Dybala's openings. This problem has largely been addressed with the signings of Costa and Bernardeschi.

Right-back Mattia De Sciglio, who can add bite and dynamism to a four-man defence, will replace Dani

##### TARGETS



Blaise Matuidi (PSG)

30 | Central midfielder  
The attack-mindedness of Miralem Pjanic and Sami Khedira has often left Juventus exposed in the middle of the pitch, allowing opponents to overload the defence. Matuidi's work-rate and passing can help solve this.

Verdict: Smart solution



Steven N'Zonzi (Sevilla)

28 | Central midfielder

A fantastic box-to-box player, the Frenchman has become Sevilla's heart and soul on the pitch. Had he played the Champions League final for Juve, he would have stopped Real Madrid in its tracks.

Verdict: Top addition



Kostas Manolas (Roma)

26 | Centre-back  
An excellent all-round defender, the Greek centre-back communicates well with other defenders and offers a lot of support to the midfield. Juventus can rely on his recovery pace to pin down quick strikers.

Verdict: Worthy investment

the 'Holy Grail' if a midfield general — PSG's Blaise Matuidi or Sevilla's Steven N'Zonzi — is captured.

SOURCE: TRANSFERMARKET.COM

## GAME THEORY

### Hitting a plateau

The progression of world records has grown less steep in recent times, almost flattening in some events, as the selection of graphs shows. In addition to fewer milliseconds being shaved off the record times, they are also happening less frequently. Five new marks have been set so far at the World Championships in Budapest; 12 were set at Kazan 2015, six at Barcelona 2013. The outlier is Rome 2009, where 43 tumbled, thanks largely to performance-enhancing polyurethane body-suits, which have since been banned by FINA.



Katinka Hosszu and Michael Phelps hold the most world records – seven each



## IN BRIEF



Colbert to make Trump animated series

NEW YORK

Comedian Stephen Colbert has signed a deal to produce an animated series about U.S. President Donald Trump for an initial run of 10 episodes on Showtime. The series will also star Mr. Trump's family and top associates and "anyone else straying into his orbit", the channel said. AFP



Freida Pinto to promote protection of tigers

NEW DELHI

Actor Freida Pinto has partnered with an initiative by WWF and Discovery to save tigers from extinction. Pinto will promote Project CAT: Conserving Acres for Tigers, which highlights the importance of preserving wild habitats. IANS



Fire Ball ride ordered shut across the globe

CHICAGO

The Dutch manufacturer of an amusement ride called 'Fire Ball' that broke apart at the Ohio State Fair, killing one person and injuring seven others, has ordered that the attraction be shut down worldwide until further notice. AFP

## Setting sail to unlock secrets of Zealandia

Samples to be taken by drilling into rock under the waves

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SYDNEY

Scientists are attempting to unlock the secrets of the "lost continent" of Zealandia, setting sail on Friday to investigate the huge underwater landmass east of Australia that has never been properly studied.

Zealandia, which is mostly submerged beneath the South Pacific, was once part of the Gondwana super-continent but broke away some 75 million years ago.

In a paper published in the Geological Society of America's journal *GSA Today* in February, researchers made the case that it should be considered a new continent.

They said it was a distinct geological entity that met all the criteria applied to Earth's other continents, including elevation above the surrounding area, distinctive geology, a well-defined area and a crust much thicker than that found on the ocean floor.

**Large landmass**

Covering five million square kilometres, it extends from south of New Zealand northward to New Caledonia and west to the Kent Plateau off Australia's east.

Drill ship *Joides Resolution* will recover sediments and rocks lying deep beneath the seabed in a bid to discover how the region has behaved over the past tens of millions of years.

The recovered cores will be studied onboard, allowing scientists to address issues such as oceanographic history, extreme climates, sub-seafloor life, plate tec-

tonics and earthquake-generating zones. Co-chief scientist Jerry Dickens, from Rice University in Texas, said the region was a vital area to study changes in global climate.

"As Australia moved north and the Tasman Sea developed, global circulation patterns changed and water depths over Zealandia fluctuated," he said. "This region was important in influencing global changes."

Australian National University's Neville Exon said the two-month expedition would also help better understand major changes in the global tectonic configura-

tion that started about 53 million years ago.

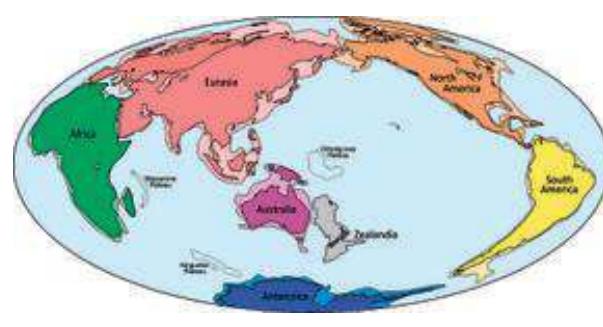
This is around the time

that the Pacific "Ring of Fire", a hotspot for volca-

noes and earthquakes, came into existence.

**Hidden from view**

In the February scientific paper, lead author Nick Mortimer said experts had been gathering data to make the case for Zealandia being a continent for more than 20 years. "If we could pull the plug on the oceans, it would be clear to everybody that we have mountain chains and a big, high-standing continent," he said.



**Sea expedition:** Illustration shows Zealandia (marked in grey) to be studied by (below) drill ship *Joides Resolution*. ■ GNS SCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE/REUTERS/AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY/AFP



Fire Ball ride ordered shut across the globe

CHICAGO

The Dutch manufacturer of an amusement ride called 'Fire Ball' that broke apart at the Ohio State Fair, killing one person and injuring seven others, has ordered that the attraction be shut down worldwide until further notice. AFP

## Colour-blind flatworms can still choose between colours: study

NCBS research gives clues to genes, molecules linked to eye-brain regeneration

R. PRASAD

CHENNAI

Bengaluru-based researchers have found that flatworms, which are highly averse to light and move away from it, have the ability to discern different colours despite being colour-blind.

Unlike humans who have three colour-sensitive photoreceptors for red, blue and green, flatworms have just one type.

The study also found that flatworms were able to move in response to long wavelength ultraviolet light even when the head was cut — proof that the worms could sense light even without their eyes and brain.

The two light-sensing responses — brain-mediated network and eye-independent response — seen in flatworms (*Schmidtea mediterranea*) show "a typical hierarchy of dominance".

While the light sensors spread across the body (eye-independent response) helped the decapitated worms move away from UV light in a reflex-like response, the brain-mediated response to light became predominant when the brain



Akash Gulyani

regenerated, the researchers from the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine (inStem) at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) found. The results were published in the journal *Science Advances*.

"Our results now make it possible for us to use flatworms as a model for eye-brain regeneration, where the exact function of the eye and brain can be studied as regeneration takes place. We can identify the molecules and genes that are responsible for functional eye regeneration in flatworms and test for their importance in human disease models and human stem cells," says Dr. Akash Gulyani, the corresponding author of the paper.

Flatworms cannot tolerate any colour or amount of light and tend to move away from it. But when exposed to

## Slug slime inspires new kind of glue

REUTERS

LONDON

Scientists have developed an experimental surgical glue inspired by the mucus secreted by slugs that could offer an alternative to sutures and staples for closing wounds.

The slugs' trick is to generate a substance that not only forms strong bonds on wet surfaces but also has a matrix that dissipates energy at the point of adhesion, making it highly flexible.

The man-made version of this tough adhesive is based on the same principles and it was shown to adhere strongly to pig skin and cartilage.

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# DELHI METRO



## JNU students on nationalism

JNUSU president Mohit Pandey says research is biggest contribution to the nation [Page 2](#)



## Much ado about nothing

Madhur Bhandarkar's *Indu Sarkar* latest is a tiresome and watered-down version of a political thriller [Page 4](#)



## Straight from the heart

Ileana D'Cruz opens up on equations with male actors, her decisions and mental health of celebrities [Page 5](#)



## Hop, skip and ale

From brews guarded by Trappist monks to yeast banks, beer in Belgium is no simple drink [Page 6](#)

### IN BRIEF



#### Inspector names former top cop in FIR

NEW DELHI  
Delhi government Public Grievance Cell member and former Special Commissioner of Police N. Dilip Kumar and three others have been named in an FIR registered on Tuesday for allegedly implicating a Delhi Police inspector. Inspector Shashi Kant Gaur has alleged in his complaint that Mr. Kumar, Anjani Kumar alias Anil Kumar Jaiswal, Sachin Malhotra and Sanjay Sehgal conspired to implicate him.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 3](#)

#### Official booked for sexual harassment

NEW DELHI  
An employee of the Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) has been booked by the Delhi Police for allegedly repeatedly sexually harassing an artist from the Northeast. Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) B.K. Singh said the case was registered after the victim visited the Tilak Marg police station on Thursday and recorded her statement.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 2](#)

#### 5,000 applications so far for new DDA scheme

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has received around 5,000 applications for its new housing scheme, with senior officials conjecturing that demonetisation could be a factor behind lesser number of people applying for it. The 2017 Housing Scheme, which offers 12,000 flats for four income categories, was launched on June 30. The last date for submitting applications is August 11. [PTI](#)

# 20-yr-old beaten to death as crowd looked on

Three arrested for thrashing labourer after accusing him of snatching money



**Brutal attack:** Rahul, a resident of Jahangirpuri, was attacked at the Adarsh Nagar railway station in north-west Delhi on Thursday. [SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA](#)

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Three men have been arrested for beating a 20-year-old labourer to death at the Adarsh Nagar railway station on Thursday afternoon after accusing him of snatching money.

#### No money found

However, no money was recovered from the victim, Rahul, said the police.

The trio – Ravi, Lalit and Rajender – had allegedly been chasing the man from Azadpur Mandi.

They thrashed Rahul after he ran out of breath and was caught.

#### Victim worked as loader

According to the police, Rahul was beaten, pushed and kicked by the three men.

He worked as a loader in the mandi and lived with his family in a Jahangirpuri

slum, said the police.

#### Case registered

"We have registered a case of murder in the matter. Three accused have been arrested. We have also accessed CCTV footage. Investigation is on to ascertain the motive. It appears that there was some money issue," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Railways) Parvez Ahmed.

#### He ran away

The accused told the police that Rahul had taken away ₹20,000 from one of them on the day of the incident. They claimed they were trying to take the money away from him.

"They alleged that Rahul started running away with the money. One of the men started hitting him and was joined by the other two," said a senior police officer.

Rahul, meanwhile, ran

for cover and managed to scale the wall of the railway station, which is next to the mandi. The men chased him till platform number one.

#### Two cops to the rescue

"They punched him all over, including the chest, head and abdomen. He was pinned to the ground and kicked on his private parts as well," said a police officer.

As people around remained mute spectators, a head constable and a constable on duty on the platform came to his rescue. However, Rahul had been severely beaten up by then. The head constable gave chase and managed to catch the three men.

This, even as Rahul lay there unconscious and more policemen reached the spot.

#### Delay in medical aid

Some people said that when they reached the station nearly an hour after the incident, the body was still lying there covered, hinting at the delay in rushing Rahul to a hospital.

DCP Ahmed said the delay could have been because of the ambulance's late arrival.

#### Internal injuries

Sources said preliminary reports had suggested that Rahul had internal injuries and died of heart failure.

## 'Timely intervention would have helped'

Incident highlights public apathy

**SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR**  
NEW DELHI

People gathered as three men beat up the 20-year-old at the Adarsh Nagar railway station. But no one came forward to help the man as he cried in pain.

It was too late by the time the police reached the spot.

Head constable Lal Babu, who caught the three accused, said timely intervention could have saved Rahul. He said he was in another part of the station, away from platform number one, when he spotted the men thrashing Rahul.

#### 'Crowd did little'

The platforms and tracks at the railway station are manned by a Home Guard and the head constable from the Delhi Police. They are assisted by a constable from the Railway Protection Force.

According to Mr. Babu, the crowd did little before and after his arrival. "There were anywhere between 35 to 40 people on the platform, but it was left to two



**Lack of concern:** While many people denied any such incident, those who acknowledged it said they weren't present when it happened. [▪SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA](#)

## NH-24 crash: teen truck driver held

**HEMANI BHANDARI**  
NEW DELHI

The driver of the MCD truck that rammed an SUV on National Highway 24 early on Wednesday morning has been arrested. The 19-year-old, Nitesh Kumar, was nabbed near Akshardham.

Four members of a family and the driver of the car, a friend of the victims, were killed after the truck jumped over a divider and landed on the bonnet of the SUV on the other side of the road.

#### Tried to mislead cops

During interrogation, Nitesh allegedly tried to mislead the police by claiming that he was 16 years old. His Aadhaar card, however, established that he was 19 years old.

#### 'Lost control'

Nitesh claimed to have lost control on the day of the incident. "He doesn't seem like a trained driver. He was coming from the Ghazipur landfill after dumping debris. It is yet to be confirmed whether he was drunk or sleepy," a senior police said.

#### Father helped

A resident of the jhuggis near Akshardham, Nitesh was apprehended after his father helped the police, said a senior officer. "He didn't go home after the incident. He was roaming around and meeting friends. His father told us that he wasn't coming home," the officer added.

The police said that they received a tip-off saying that Nitesh would meet his father on Friday evening. "He was going to meet his family in the evening. We nabbed him before he could reach," said the officer.

# Faridabad project: officer claims pressure to declare green area as 'non-forest' land

**ASHOK KUMAR**  
GURUGRAM

In a fresh twist to the controversy over grant of permission to Bharti Land Limited to cut hundreds of trees on a 52-acre land in Sarai Khawaja village in Faridabad this past month for a group housing project, a letter written by Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, Gurugram, has surfaced accusing Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Forest and Wildlife, of putting pressure on him to mark Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) area as non-forest and threatening him of dire consequences.

In the letter addressed to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests P.P. Bhojvaid, the Conservator of Forests (Wildlife, Gurugram) Vinod Kumar, has accused ACS, Forest and Wildlife, S.K. Gulati of putting pressure on him to consider areas marked as open/dense scrub or scattered wooded trees in Survey of India (SoI) map as non-forest and allegedly warning him of suspension and serious consequences if he did not comply with his directions.

**Transfer threat**  
"He also said that he would cancel my recent order as CF, Gurgaon, Wildlife and would call me back to Panchkula till the assigned job was completed in the manner he wanted," the letter, dated June 23, read.

Referring to a meeting with Mr. Gulati at Van Bhawan in Panchkula on June 22, Mr. Kumar, in his

#### Green concern

**September 8, 2015:** Bharti Land sought permission to fell trees on 52 acres of land in Faridabad's Sarai Khawaja

**September 30, 2015:** Deputy Conservator of Forests (Faridabad) wrote to Conservator of Forests (Gurugram) explaining the status of land and recommending non-felling of trees

**October 1, 2015:** Conservator of Forests directed the Deputy Conservator to keep the felling in abeyance in view of the said facts

**November, 2015:** The agency again made a request to fell trees in light of government orders issued before August 12, 2014

**November 11, 2015:** DCF (Faridabad) wrote to CF (Gurugram) citing reasons for his inability to allow permission

**April 24, 2017:** Additional Chief Secretary (Forest and Wildlife) wrote to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to accord permission for felling of trees

**June 19, 2017:** Environmentalists moved National Green Tribunal over the matter

**June 22, 2017:** Additional Chief Secretary (Forest and Wildlife) wrote to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to direct the Divisional Forest Officer (Faridabad) to accord permission for felling of trees

**June 23, 2017:** DCF (Faridabad) granted permission to fell trees

A person is shown using an axe to cut down a tree. The tree has several branches and leaves. The person is wearing a simple shirt and trousers.

power vested in her under PLPA, 1900.

"I was abused with words like 'bloody fool', being 'crooked' etc. by Mr. Gulati over the phone. I was also told that I would not be 'spared' and 'would be made to pay,' said the letter by Ms. Renjitha, dated July 5.

#### Forest status

Even though the land in question does not fall under the Aravalli project plantation and is not notified under Section 4 and 5 of PLPA, 1900, and thus not under any category of recorded forests, but, according to the forest department officials, it falls within the dictionary meaning of forests in the light of Godavarman judgment of the Supreme Court.

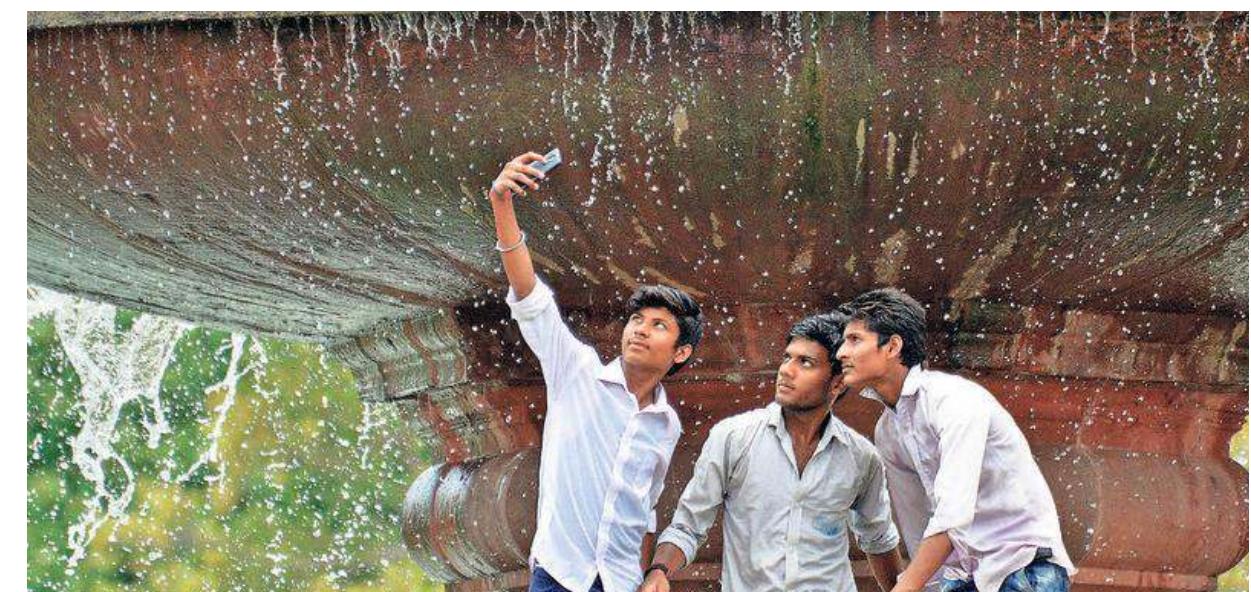
A list of such deemed forest areas in Faridabad, which includes the said land, a Gair mumkin pahar area, was sent to a committee constituted in November 2015 as per the SC orders in Lafarge case for the identification of forests.

Mr. Gulati, told *The Hindu* over the phone that some officers in the forest department were holding the government to ransom and not allowing any development in this region, but they were now "exposed" as the land was not forest as per the SoI maps and the officers were making baseless allegations. Mr. Bhojvaid refused to comment on the matter.

#### Continuous pressure

Earlier, a letter by Divisional Forest Officer, Faridabad, Renjitha M.H. to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had also accused Mr. Gulati of "continuous pressure" in the discharge of her statutory functions in

## No sweat



**Say cheese:** Youngsters make the most of a humid Friday afternoon under a fountain. The Met Department has ruled out the possibility of rain on Saturday. [▪R.V. MOORTHY](#)

# Soon, use your Metro card in DTC buses

Transport Department is in the process of enabling use of Metro cards on 200 buses

**JATIN ANAND**  
NEW DELHI

Commuting in the Capital is set to become easier with Delhites being able to use a common card – the Delhi Metro smart card in this case – on the existing public transport system.

The Transport Department is in the process of enabling the use of the metro smart card on 200 Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses as part of a pilot project.

The idea, which was floated in 2010, was originally intended to be functional in time for the Commonwealth Games. It

was expected to be the answer to London's Oyster card.

A year ago, the DTC had successfully used a DMRC smart card on an Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM) installed in one of its buses. By August 15 this year, said a senior government official, the department proposes to extend the usage to 200 buses. This will include 100 low-floor buses and 100 under the cluster scheme.

As *The Hindu* had reported last month, the department intends to increase ridership on the DTC's fleet of 5,600 buses with a single swipe of the

Delhi Metro smart card by next year.

#### Pilot project on track

"The pilot project is a step further in enabling common mobility across Delhi's public transport network, which has the Delhi Metro at its core, by the end of this year. The pilot project will be operational on 200 DTC buses for now," said the official.

"We are on track with regard to procurement of a hardware module, which enables the sharing of software and security systems on ETMs operational both at DMRC

stations and DTC buses," the official added.

One of the most significant technical issues related to common mobility, according to an official, was whether it was to be provided through Delhi Metro smart cards or separate ones developed for the DTC.

In his budget speech earlier this year, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia had said that while all cluster buses had ETMs, the AAP government proposed to implement the system on all DTC buses by the end of the ongoing fiscal.

## IN BRIEF



## Don't turn Purana Quila lake into dumpyard: NGT

NEW DELHI  
The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has rapped the Delhi government over the poor condition of the Purana Quila lake here and directed it to ensure that it did not become a dumping yard. The green panel asked the AAP government to explain why silt, sand and other debris had not been removed from the lake. PTI

## 'Stop juveniles from fleeing reform homes'

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Friday said frequent incidents of juveniles escaping from reformatory homes needed to be looked into. A Bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and S. P. Garg also expressed concern over the issue of women inmates trying to escape rehabilitation homes. It said measures have to be taken to stop such incidents and one counsellor should also be attached to all such homes in Delhi. PTI

## Discoms should make accounts public: BJP

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi unit of the BJP on Friday opposed any hike in power tariff in the Capital and demanded that the AAP government ask distribution companies to make their financial accounts public. The three discoms -- BSES Yamuna Power Limited, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited -- have been seeking hike in tariff on the grounds that the last such increase of 5% was effected in 2014. PTI

## Govt. shielding names exposed by Panama Papers, says AAP

+ Party accuses BJP of going after the Opposition

SOUMYA PILLAI  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday accused the BJP government at the Centre of protecting big names from India whose involvement in corruption had been exposed by the leaked Panama papers.

Reacting to the Pakistan Supreme Court's order disqualifying Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over undeclared assets, senior AAP leader Ashutosh said that it has been two years since the names of some influential names came to the fore in the Panama Papers case, but no investigation has been initiated against them.

## Big names

"The BJP had come to power riding on the claim 'na khud khaunga, na kaane dunga' (neither will I take bribe, nor will I let anyone take it). Then how come the inquiry (into Panama Papers case) has not moved an inch," said Mr. Ashutosh.

He alleged that names of BJP's Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh's son

## Research is JNU's service to nation'

Students slam Meenakshi Lekhi, say MP trying to divert attention from issues plaguing university

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ  
NEW DELHI

A day after BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi defended the JNU Vice-Chancellor's demand for a battle tank to be installed on the campus to evoke patriotism, students said the research conducted by the university's scholars was the biggest contribution to the nation.

"Over the past week, more than 1,000 JNU students have submitted their M.Phil./Ph.D theses that seek to find solutions to many of the country's problems in the fields of education, health, and social injustice. This, I feel, is the best service to the nation," said JNU Students' Union president Mohit Pandey.

On Thursday, Ms. Lekhi had said in Parliament that JNU students must take an "oath to protect India's pride and nationality". The statement, however, has elicited negative reactions from the students.

"Will Ms. Lekhi take an oath that there will be no more lynching cases and that she and her party will not tolerate any hate-mongering?" asked Mr. Pandey.

## Case of nepotism'

He added that the MP coming to defend the V-C was a clear case of nepotism and that nobody was bothered about education and research in the university.

Vijay Kumar, a member of the All India Students' Association, questioned if there was any data to show that students of Sainik Schools, where decommissioned tanks, aircraft and other military equipment are put up for display, had contributed more to the country than JNU students.

"Through their research, JNU students have contrib-



**Keeping hopes high:** A kiosk set up at Jawaharlal Nehru University to guide freshers with the registration process. Various political organisations on the campus set up helpdesks every year with the expectation that the new students will join them later on. ■ JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ

Will Meenakshi Lekhi take an oath that there will be no more lynching cases and that she and her party will not tolerate any hate-mongering?

MOHIT PANDEY  
JNUSU president

uted to nation-building and sought solutions to problems," said Mr. Kumar.

## Diversion from issues'

Gul Sanawer, a member of the All India Students' Federation, said Ms. Lekhi was trying to divert attention from the issues plaguing the university.

"The BJP government has cut seats and funding in higher education. To divert attention from these issues, Ms. Lekhi is raising questions about nationalism at JNU," said Mr. Sanawer.

There are, however, oth-

ers on the campus who feel that only a small section of students are opposed to the idea of the tank.

"If a poll is conducted on the campus, only 200 of the 8,000 students would be opposed to the idea. The tank will be a symbol of the sacrifices made by our alumni," said Nikunj Makwana, a member of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

## Inspiration for students'

He added that the tank would even inspire students to join the Army.

Manvendra, another member of the ABVP, said the issue was unnecessarily being turned into a controversy.

"Ms. Lekhi is only suggesting that students take an oath of nation-building through academics. What is wrong with that," asked Mr. Manvendra.

He added that the request

for a tank was being construed by some people in the university as a case for "warmongering".

"The tank will only be a symbol of the sacrifices made by soldiers, many of whom got their degrees from JNU," said the ABVP member.

## JNU targeted'

Amita, a Ph.D scholar, said the government was targeting JNU students because they raised issues facing the country.

"Students at the Central University of Haryana, where I previously studied, never raised their voice against pertinent issues. At JNU, however, students seek solutions to problems. For the government, anyone who raises questions is an 'anti-national,'" said Ms. Amita.

"Research is a service to the nation, and we do not need take a oath before joining the university," she added.

Mr. Sinha alleged that he was also forced to exit the station. No complaint has been filed.

The CISF said it would look into the issue if a complaint was received from the student.

## JNU student told to 'go to Pakistan'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A student of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was allegedly abused by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officers at the Rajiv Chowk metro station on Thursday evening.

Aman Sinha, second-year M.A.(History) student, said he was first stopped by CISF staff during the security check as he had his headphones on.

He was then allegedly asked to join the queue again without his headphones on.

"I was then waiting for my sister, when an officer came and threatened me to not go ahead," he alleged.

The officers then allegedly took him to an office and asked him about his whereabouts.

When Mr. Sinha said he was from JNU, the officers told him that he had "maligned the image of the country".

"They also said that they would send us all to Pakistan," he alleged.

## Made to apologise'

Later, the student was asked to write an apology mentioning he won't "not talk with CISF staff" and "will not indulge in such kind of behaviour".

Mr. Sinha alleged that he was also forced to exit the station. No complaint has been filed.

The CISF said it would look into the issue if a complaint was received from the student.

## Sexual harassment: LKA official booked

Case filed by artist from Northeast

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR  
NEW DELHI

An employee of the Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) has been booked by the Delhi Police for allegedly repeatedly sexually harassing an artist from the Northeast.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) B.K. Singh said the case was registered after the victim visited the Tilak Marg police station on Thursday and recorded her statement.

"We have booked the official under Sections 354 A (physical contact and advances involving unwelcome and explicit sexual overtures) and 354-D (stalking) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 67A (Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form) of the IT Act," said Mr. Singh.

## IT Act slapped

The provision of the IT Act was slapped because of some lewd messages sent to the victim's phone, the officer added.

The woman claimed that Sub-Inspector Sunil Kumar tried to tutor her to alter the wordings of her complaint and raised objection to the fact that she was accompanied by constables from the Northeast and that she had approached the Northeast cell first.

Responding to the allegations, Mr. Singh said the argument happened when the victim did not agree to hand over her phone to the officer for probe.

## Accident victim's kin get over ₹10 lakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A motor accident claims tribunal (MACT) here has awarded a compensation of over ₹10 lakh to the family of a 56-year-old government employee, who was killed in a road accident in Uttar Pradesh in March 2008.

MACT presiding officer Amit Bansal directed Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd, the insurer of the offending vehicle, to pay ₹10,10,836 to the wife and five children of Diwan Singh, who was a resident of Jahangirpuri.

## Rash driving'

"It has been proved that the man died as a result of injuries suffered in the accident due to rash driving of the driver," the tribunal said. On March 3, 2008, Singh, who was posted as an assistant development officer with the Department of Agriculture at Shahjahanpur in U.P., was on his way home when a jeep hit his bike from behind.

## Festive touch



**Gearing up:** Artists work on an idol of the elephant-headed god, ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, on Friday. ■ V.SUDERSHAN

## AIIMS docs write to PM

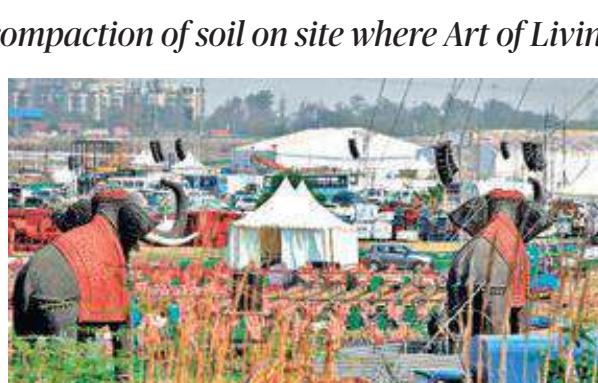
STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The president of the Resident Doctors' Association, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), has petitioned to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the issue of non-compliance in implementing recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission relating to house rent allowance and non-practising allowance to AIIMS' resident doctors.

A release issued by the Association on Friday noted: "You will be surprised to know that these recommendations were issued on July 7, but our ignorant AIIMS administration has not given any thought to it." Excuses like pending approval from Health Ministry are being given to the doctors, the statement added.

## New panel gives different view on floodplains damage

Committee rules out compaction of soil on site where Art of Living event was held, says area fit for cultivation



**Alarm bells:** Earlier, another panel had alleged that the Yamuna floodplains were completely destroyed due to the World Cultural Festival. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

report by the larger panel, said the land where the function was held was found to be fully covered with grass and some saplings of tree species.

"This kind of grass and

natural regeneration of seedlings is not possible on compacted soil. The area was also under water in small depressions. No significant size of the wetland/water body was noticed on the site prior to the event."

The committee also inspected the areas on the eastern bank, which are under the control of the U.P. government. This site, as informed by the Chief Engineer, was used for parking of vehicles on a 15-hectare land permitted by them to Art of Living temporally for the event."

He further informed the

committee members that the land was being used by farmers for raising agricultural crops prior to the function and the site continued to be used for the same purpose.

Referring to Google earth images, the committee said in its report that it could not locate any "heap of debris" on the site and it was evident that no "wetland or water body" was seen on the site prior to the event.

The committee also inspected the areas on the eastern bank, which are under the control of the U.P. government. This site, as informed by the Chief Engineer, was used for parking of vehicles on a 15-hectare land permitted by them to Art of Living temporally for the event."

With regard to the removal of the toxins which may have leached out of the dumped debris on the site, the panel said that two successive monsoons might have already washed away such material.

The matter will now be taken up for hearing on August 4.

## Help women trapped in Oman: DCW to Sushma

Victims 'thrashed' by their employers

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has urged the Ministry of External Affairs to rescue 45 Indian women allegedly trapped in Oman.

In a letter to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, DCW chief Swati Malwal said the women had been taken to Oman by an agent who had promised them nursing work there.

They were, however, recruited as domestic helps and repeatedly "tortured" by their employers.

They were also made to starve, said the women.

## NGO to the rescue

The DCW was informed when the victims registered a complaint with

Navshrishti, an NGO associated with the women's panel.

Among the victims is a 60-year-old woman, who was allegedly beaten up by her employer.

The employers would also allegedly threaten to send the victims to jail whenever they asked to be sent back to India.

## Passports seized'

The women said their passports had also allegedly been seized, because of which they could not return home. The victims belong to places such as Haryana, Punjab and Pondicherry. They also claimed that they did not receive any assistance from the Indian Embassy in Oman despite repeated requests.

# Ex-top cop named in FIR for framing inspector

N. Dilip Kumar, a Delhi government Public Grievance Cell member, said he has faced such allegations earlier as well

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

Delhi government Public Grievance Cell member and former Special Commissioner of Police N. Dilip Kumar and three others have been named in a first information report registered on Tuesday for allegedly falsely implicating a Delhi Police inspector and hatching a conspiracy against him.

#### Bribe allegation

Inspector Shashi Kant Gaur, who was suspended in 2010 following an FIR against him for allegedly accepting a bribe, has alleged in his complaint that Mr. Kumar, Anjani Kumar alias Anil Kumar Jaiswal, Sachin Malhotra and Sanjay Sehgal had conspired to implicate him, used forged documents as true evidence and prepared an incorrect audio record.

The High Court had acquitted Mr. Gaur in January, seven years after a departmental inquiry was initiated against him.

Mr. Gaur alleged that Mr. Kumar, who was the then Joint Commissioner of Police (Vigilance), had submitted a report to the Special Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner of Police charging him with several corrupt activities based on statements of the three other persons mentioned in the FIR.



**The complainant:** Inspector Shashi Kant Gaur. ■ HEMANI BHANDARI

Mr. Kumar, however, said he had ordered the investigation against Mr. Gaur after receiving a file of pending inquiry against him.

#### Fair inquiry

"I saw the file and essentially found two versions of a CD record, one saying that it didn't contain valuable material and the other saying it was blank. That's when the inquiry was ordered," he said, adding, "I wasn't influenced by anybody. I follow a set of principles. It was a fair inquiry done by police officers. I have faced such allegations before because of my service in the force."

Mr. Kumar added, "If the Commissioner of Police had ordered that an FIR be registered, there must be substance. And Mr. Gaur was convicted by a lower court in 2014, which shows there was evidence."

#### HC observation

When an investigation was ordered against Mr. Gaur in 2009, Mr. Jaiswal alleged that he had asked him for a bribe of ₹2 lakh, of which Mr. Gaur allegedly accepted ₹50,000.

The High Court, however, observed that Mr. Jaiswal did not file the complaint promptly and lodged it only after a gap of nearly six years.

#### Different transcripts

Mr. Gaur alleged that the transcript of the recorded conversation between an inspector and Mr. Jaiswal in 2009 was destroyed. The FIR stated that the content of the transcript provided by one

officer was different from the content supplied by another officer, though both were said to be transcripts of the same recording. He alleged that several words like *rishwat* (bribe) were fraudulently inserted to establish that he had admitted to taking a bribe from Mr. Jaiswal.

#### Forged transcript

"The forged transcript was used by Mr. Kumar as genuine to implicate the complainant in a false case and in this departmental inquiry," alleged Mr. Gaur in his complaint, adding that there was no bribe allegation during the conversation between the inspector and Mr. Jaiswal.

Mr. Gaur also alleged that the statements submitted by Mr. Jaiswal, Mr. Malhotra and Mr. Sehgal alleging that he had accepted the bribe and asked Mr. Malhotra to invest his "ill-gotten" money were "undated and unsigned" in the inquiry report submitted by Mr. Kumar.

"Who took their statements and when wasn't written on the documents," Mr. Gaur alleged.

The court observed that no evidence had emerged on record to prove the demand of bribe by Mr. Gaur.

"I believe in the judiciary and investigation of the Delhi Police. I hope for the same in future," Mr. Gaur said.

## We didn't go to school for a month fearing questions'

Gaur's kids refer to the time as 'difficult'

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

The 17-year-old daughter of Delhi Police inspector Shashi Kant Gaur said she learnt about the FIR against her father in 2010 while the family was watching television together.

Mr. Gaur was suspended in 2010 following an FIR against him for allegedly accepting a bribe. He was acquitted in January this year. On Tuesday, Mr. Gaur filed an FIR against former Special Commissioner of Police N. Dilip Kumar and three others for allegedly implicating him falsely.

As their mother Leena Gaur smiled from a distance, the girls lauded her for her strength and calm.

"My brothers, two-year-old and six-year-old then, didn't understand anything. Once they saw a TV report and said 'Mumma, yeh papa hein na? [That's papa, isn't it?]. It was tough to explain," said the elder daughter, who was 12-year-old at that time.

#### Silver lining

However, there was a silver lining, she said, "We got to spend a lot of time with our father. He wouldn't come home for hours while he was working, but he was home a lot after 2010."

old at the time of the incident.

Her 19-year-old sister said they lost their maternal grandfather in 2013. "He was a retired officer from Uttar Pradesh. He was also pulled in during the probe. He suffered a heart attack because of the trauma," she said.

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**National Health Mission**  
**Himachal Pradesh, SDA Complex,**  
Kasumpati, Shimla-171009  
Email: md-hp-nrhm@nic.in  
Telephone No. 0177-2624505

#### Corrigendum

National Health Mission, Himachal Pradesh, Directorate of Health & Family Welfare hereby extends the date of submission of Request for Proposal (RFP) for the supply of Dialysis Services at Regional Hospitals Hamirpur and Chamba and Civil Hospitals Nurpur, Palampur and Paonta Sahib in Himachal Pradesh till 5.8.2017 at 12:00 noon and the same will be opened on same day at 3:00 PM. Others terms and conditions will remain same.

Dy. Mission Director,  
National Health Mission,  
Himachal Pradesh

HP/335/17-18

#### PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, HARYANA

#### PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION NO. 1 REWARI

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. Online bids are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of Haryana for the work mentioned below:-

Name of work:  
1. Annual maintenance of water supply scheme Rural area various schemes (Salawas, Berawas, Sehbaipur Khalsa, Mandia Kalan, Bamber, Phideri, Jant, Phadni, Masani, Alangipur, Tarapur, Khiuri & Sabi Nadi) for three months.

(Rs. 7.40 lacs)

1. Sr. No. : 1  
2. Tender No. : 45800  
3. Estimated Cost : Rs. 7.40 lacs  
4. Earnest Money (2%) : Rs. 14,800/-  
5. Time Limit : 3 months  
6. Tender Document & E-Service Fees : Rs. 1000 + Rs. 1000/-  
7. Start Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission : 24.07.2017 17:00 hr  
8. Expiry Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission : 03.08.2017 17:00 hr

Possession of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and registration of the contractors on the portal i.e. <http://haryanaprocurement.gov.in> is a prerequisite for e-tendering.

For further details and e-tendering schedule, visit website <https://haryanaprocurement.gov.in>

For & on behalf of Governor of Haryana

Executive Engineer  
Public Health Engg. Divn.  
No. 1 Rewari.

PRDH-53220

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

St. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, State Entry Road, DRM Office, New Delhi or & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work: 1. N.I.T. No. : 09-TRD-NDLs-2017-18

2. Name of work : Hiring of Emergency Truck for OHE Depot at Ghaziabad for a period of Two Years. 3. Tender Cost : Rs. 2000/- online payment mode available on IREPS website. 4. Approximate Cost : Rs. 17,82,720. 5. Earnest Money : Rs. 35,660/- online payment mode available on IREPS website 6. Completion Period : 24 months. 7. Validity of offer : 90 Days from the date of opening of the Tender.

8. Date & Time for e-tender advertisement : 01.08.2017 (10.00 hrs.) to 31.08.2017 (15.00 hrs.). 9. Date & Time for e-tender submission : 17.08.2017 (00.00 hrs.) to 31.08.2017 (15.00 hrs.). 10. Tender Closing Date & Time : 31.08.2017 (15.00 hrs.)

11. Date & Time of tender opening (immediately when tender submissions ends) : 31.08.2017 (15.00 hrs.) 12. Publication cost Allocation : Ord. Revenue (Rs. 10/-)

NOTE 1 - (Eligibility Criteria for works costing less than and upto Rs. 50 Lakhs) (i) The tenderer(s) shall be eligible only if they fulfill eligibility criteria of having received full contract worth earning upto 10% of the value of the tendered work in last 3 years and minimum of 150% of the advertised tender value. (ii) Authority Certificates shall be produced by the tenderer(s) to effect which may be an attested certificate from the employer/client, Audited Balance sheet duly certified by the Chartered Accountant etc. Tenderer must be submit required mandatory documents as mentioned in tender to be uploaded on IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) while submitting their offer. NOTE 2 - All participants Tenderer/Tenderers will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offers. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void. Tender Notice is available on Northern Railway website also i.e. [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) in upto tender closing date & time and additional relevant information may be checked on website of [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Tender document is also available on IREPS website from the date of tender advertised. Tender No.: 09-TRD-NDLs-2017-18 Dated-26.07.2017

Serving Customers With A Smile

#### HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.

#### (A State Government Undertaking)

#### PRESS TENDER NOTICE "CORRIGENDUM" (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)

The dates for sale, submission and opening of following tenders is hereby extended as below. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. The detailed tender document can also be downloaded from website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB>.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description of Items	Qty.	Estd. Cost (In Lacs)	Tender Cost (Non-refundable)/ EMD @1% of ECV (₹)	Last Date & Time of Sale of Tender	Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender	Due Date & Time of Opening of techno Comm. Bid
1	CE (MM)-19/2017	PCC Poles of Different sizes.	3893 Nos.	83.99	1000/- 83,990/-	14.08.2017 (Upto 5:00 pm) (upto 5:00 pm)	16.08.2017 (at 11:30 am)	Chief Engineer (MM), HPSEB Ltd., Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla - 171001

#### Jharkhand BijliVitran Nigam Ltd.

CIN No. U40108JH2013SGC001702

ELECTRIC SUPPLY AREA, DUMKA

FAX No. 06434-226812, E-mail ID : gm\_esadk@rediffmail.com

#### Inviting e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited under ADP head 2017-18 from reputed, experienced and financially sound Manufactures/Suppliers/Authorized dealer having authorization of manufacturers and having adequate testing facilities permanently registered with SS/NSIC units and establishment in Jharkhand State for supply of following materials +

NIT No.	Group	SL. No.	Particulars of Material	Qty.	Cost of tender (In Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.)
126/PR/JBV NL/17-18	A	1	33 KV Pin insulator with pin (Polymer)	Nos.	1648	
		2	33 KV Disc insulator (Polymer type) 70 KN with H/W fitting	Nos.	542	
		3	11 KV pin insulator with pin (Polymer)	Set	12742	
		4	11 KV disc insulator with H/W fitting 45 KN (Polymer)	Set	4957	
		5	33 KV Post Insulator	Set	15	7000
		6	11 KV lightning arrestor S/S/W type 9 KV 10 KA	Nos.	767	10500
		7	33 KV Lightning Arrestor S/S/W type 9KV 10 KA Heavy duty	Set	31	
		8	11 KV Lighting Arrestor S/S/W type 9KV 10 KA Heavy duty	Nos.	245	
127/PR/JBV NL/17-18	B	1	Earthling complete (Conventional) for Power Transformer	Nos.	15	
		2	Earthling (Chemical) with GI earthng pipe 40 mm 3.1 meter long (Bentonite as intermedium layer)	Set	578	10000
		3	11 KV Earthling(chemical) with earthing pipe 20mm 1.2 mtrs Long	Nos.	5739	23400
		4	Earthling (Chemical) with GI earthing pipe 20mm 2.5 meter long	Set	2497	
		5	11 KV Earthing (Chemical) with earthing pipe 20mm 12 meter long	Nos.	1714	
128/PR/JBV NL/17-18	C	1	11 KV 3-core heat shrinkable indoor cable joining kit 240 sq.mm	Set	5	

## IN BRIEF



## Delhi Metro first to achieve green milestone

With many of its residential buildings securing a platinum rating for adherence to green building norms by the Indian Green Building Council, the Delhi Metro has become the world's first Metro system to get green certification for all its major buildings and installations. The DMRC has also hit its target to generate 20 MW of solar power by 2017. STAFF REPORTER

## Haryana govt bans liquid nitrogen in drinks or food

GURUGRAM  
The Haryana government has prohibited the use of nitrogen in food and drinks across the State. The ban comes a few months after a Delhi man gulped down a drink topped with liquid nitrogen and ended up with a gaping hole in his stomach. STAFF REPORTER

## NDTV moves HC against ₹429-crore tax demand

NEW DELHI  
The New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV) on Friday said it has moved the Delhi High Court against the Income Tax Department's ₹429 crore demand for 2009-10 assessment year.

## Two cops attacked by 'cow smugglers' in Nuh

Nuh  
Two police constables were injured when alleged cow smugglers pelted stones at them in Bibipuri village of Nuh District in Haryana. The cops had pulled over a truck on suspicion of it carrying cattle, when they were attacked. The accused have been arrested. The truck was carrying nine cows. STAFF REPORTER

# 'Average household expense on health bills: ₹1 lakh/year'

Report by Praja Foundation reveals over 85% of families in Delhi are not insured

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

The overall annual household expenditure on health is estimated to be ₹36,009 crore, which means that the average Delhi household spends ₹1,07,793 on medicines and hospital stay every year, said a report released by NGO Praja Foundation.

The report titled *The State of Health of Delhi* also notes that of the total ₹6,519 crore estimated health budget (2015-16) of the municipal corporations and the Delhi government, only ₹4,910 crore – or 75% – had been spent.

**11.5% of income**  
The report also noted that families belonging to the economically backward section spent 11.5% of their annual family income on hospital/medical costs. Families which are economically well off used 10.7% of their annual income.

It further stated that 85% of families in the Capital do not even have medical insurance.

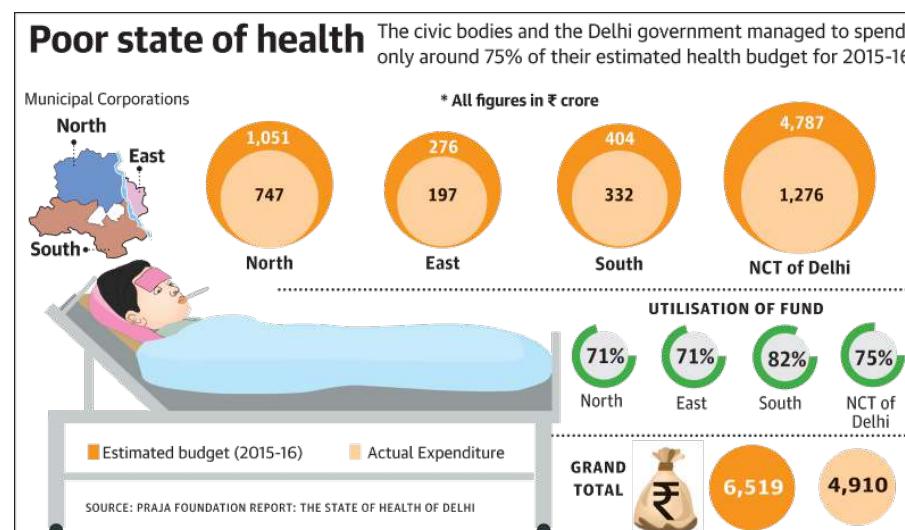
The report found that only 24% of Delhites used the services of government dispensaries and hospitals. This comes even as the Delhi government has opened 100 mobile clinics to bring in more people to the public healthcare system.

"Delhi, like much of the country, is characterised by high levels of privatisation of healthcare and low insurance coverage. As a result, the average Delhite spends a lot of his/her own money on healthcare," said Nitai Mehta, managing trustee of the NGO.

Ms. Mehta added that the figures for the report were based on a survey commissioned by the foundation and carried out by Hansa Research.

**No accurate database**  
"Delhi is characterised by high risk to various major diseases and high cost of treatment. This is a worrisome situation," she said.

"Another problem is that there is no accurate database of the total number of various sensitive diseases. Furthermore, there is no consistency in the data provided by hospitals, indicating that there is a long way to go in terms of strengthening the management information system of the city," Ms. Mehta added.



SOURCE: PRAJA FOUNDATION REPORT: THE STATE OF HEALTH OF DELHI

## Two DU students among three held for robberies

Houses of two police officers in Chanakyapuri were targeted by the accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Three teenagers, including two Delhi University (DU) students, have been arrested for allegedly carrying out thefts at residences of two police officers in the high-security Chanakyapuri.

According to the police, the accused broke into the houses, when the policemen

were out of station, and decamped with gold jewellery, two laptops and mobile phones.

### Out on family trip

The mastermind behind the robberies was 19-year-old Rahul Sharma, a Delhi University student.

The other two arrested were identified as DU stu-

dents Shravan Kumar Bharti, and Yogesh Verma – a driver.

Police said that Rahul lived in the diplomatic enclave and knew that the owners were away on a family trip.

It was Rahul who hatched a plan to commit the robberies with the help of Shravan and Yogesh, they added.

During investigation of the robbery, police got a tip-off

and put Rahul under surveillance and apprehended him.

When he was interrogated, Rahul confessed to the crime and gave up the name of the other two accused.

A case has been registered against the three accused under Sections 380 (theft) and 457 (house trespass) of the Indian Penal Code, said a statement by the police.

AAP Minister had filed defamation cases against the MLAs

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Friday recorded his evidence in two defamation cases filed by him against suspended Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Kapil Mishra and BJP MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

Mr. Jain recorded his evidence before Metropolitan Magistrate Shefali Barnala Tandon. The Magistrate posted the matter on August 23 for arguments on the two cases.

The court had in May taken cognisance of the two cases and asked Mr. Jain to lead pre-summoning evidence.

### Baseless accusations

In his complaint against Mr. Mishra, the Minister said that the rebel MLA – in a media statement on May 7 – had accused him of paying a bribe of ₹2 crore to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

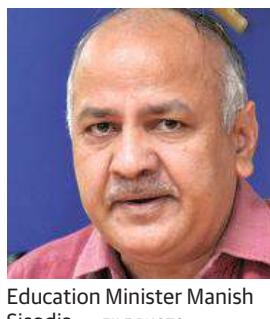
Mr. Jain added that instead of approaching a probe

producing skilled graduates, there was poor public perception of the institutes.

"People think that IIT [Indian Institute of Technology] means most talented [students] and ITIs mean most unfortunate. My aim is to overhaul the whole industrial education field, with integrated learning between ITIs, polytechnic and other State or Central universities," said the Minister.

The ITIs have already been integrated with the Bachelor of Vocational courses offered by Delhi government institutes, with graduates getting credit for their ITI diplomas when they apply for undergraduate degree courses.

Mr. Sisodia said that students who complete mechanics courses at ITIs should get credit if they want to pursue higher education in similar fields.



Education Minister Manish Sisodia. ■ FILE PHOTO

get the students to work together to market the products," said Mr. Sisodia, adding that the project could be rolled out before Diwali.

**Must boost perception**  
The marketing teams will visit local markets to promote the LED bulbs, which come with a replacement guarantee in case of defect.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sisodia said that though the ITIs were

## Jain records evidence against Mishra, Sirsa

AAP Minister had filed defamation cases against the MLAs

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## Death by celebration

Anil Kapoor's raucous Punjabi uncle act is the best thing about this loud and preachy film

KENNITH ROSARIO

In Anees Bazmee's world, family entertainers are about claiming stakes over women. The prettier the better, and the ones without an opinion, even more. In Bazmee's latest cringe-fest, you have two Arjun Kapoors doing just that. The plot is familiar:

twin orphan brother, Charan

and Karan, are in relationships with their foster parents – who are also siblings – are unaware of. One loves a Muslim girl, Nafisa (Neha Sharma), and the other is dating a girl, his mother loathes, Sweety (Ileana D'Cruz). Their pursuit to convince their staunchly traditional Punjabi parents starts an agonisingly long series of comedy of errors, which leads to a garish wedding in London.

Charan who is supposedly in a long-term relationship with Nafisa, instantly falls for Binkle (Athiya Shetty) as soon as he sees her. All Shetty does is bat her eyelashes in slow motion. Nafisa, the only female character with some semblance of intellect, soon becomes disposable.



**Sleepy hollow:** The film is infested with a tried-and-tested storyline ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Now when you see her in this one, you can't help but mutter under your breath, "Why, Ratna, Why?" Had the character been that of a flamboyant Punjabi aunty, Shah would've aced it. But there's not much the seasoned actor can do if the characterisation is inherently humdrum and unnecessarily melodramatic.

In a film infested with a tried-and-tested storyline and lousy acting, you'd expect Arjun Kapoor to sail through unnoticed. But despite the chaos, Arjun's natural inability to express shines through. Whether he is the boisterous Karan or the timid Charan, he plays both the characters with equal amounts of inefficiency.

If you survive the visual overload of mediocrity, the booming background music playing throughout will leave you with tintinnabulations of dhol, even long after the film is over, constantly reminding you of the torture you've endured.

In a film reduced to caricature, Neil Nitin Mukesh's comically-looking Sanjay Gandhi being an exemplar of reductionist characterisation. He addresses his mother as "mummy" in the presence of his ministers, and gets offended by a qawwali performance. The actor playing Indira Gandhi, who appears in a couple of scenes has an amusingly large nose and wears shades in a car, just like Miranda Priestly in *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006).

For all the hype and controversy surrounding *Indu Sarkar*, it unearths very little politically offensive content that's not already in the public space. Forced sterilisations, repression of the press and demolition of slums during the Emergency are widely documented. If Bhandarkar, were to go by his formula of shocking people through exposés, this film does nothing more than portraying the anti-Emergency wave as a second freedom struggle for India.

If soaking you in an emotional journey of an "abla naari" was his game plan, then the film surely evolves pity for her valiant efforts. If the film is Bhandarkar's effort to cash in on the nationalist wave of the current times, it surely will bag some brownie points from the current government.

## Lessons in history

### FILM REVIEWS

'Raag Desh' tells a powerful story but dodgers under a monotonous narrative

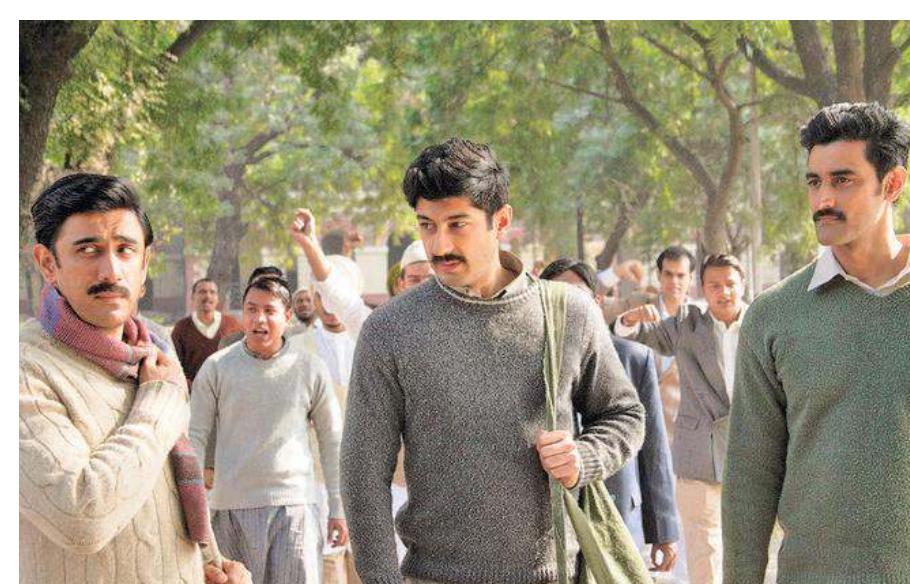
KENNITH ROSARIO

War and courtroom drama which are based on true stories have an innate quality of thrill to them. *Raag Desh* is based on a premise that combines the two, recounting the story of the Indian National Army (INA) at the Red Fort trials of 1945, a story that's as widely known as obscured. But the tension, excitement and exhilaration in a story so potent is diluted by a choppy narrative that's reminiscent of a soporific history class.

The period drama chronicles the efforts of the INA, set up by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (Kenny Basumatary), in fighting against the British on the battle field in Burma and in a court in Delhi. The film ushers in its viewers with an assumption that they know little about the history of the INA, and thereby finds it imperative to inform.

It works well up to a point where the complete abstinence from humanising any of the three leads – Major General Shah Nawaz Khan (Kunal Kapoor), Colonel Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon (Amit Sadh) and Colonel Prem Sanghal (Mohit Marwah) – begins to obtrude.

The second half of the film brings in the missing ele-



**Revolutionary stories:** The film chronicles the efforts of the INA also known as the Azad Hind Fauj ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ments of motivation, fear, anxiety and a fleeting glimpse of romance, with a surfeit of information and historic facts.

Keeping up with the traditional characteristic of a war drama, Tigmanshu Dhulia's film is an unflinching spectator of gore, gun shots and blood. It's a narrative that's woven in the clean and systematic environment of a courtroom but takes flight on

the battlefield. Cinematographer Rishi Punjabi captures the looming threat of the enemy and the stifling confines of a courtroom through shots that allow details to emerge.

**Authentic storytelling**

Dhulia ensures authenticity in his storytelling by retaining the multiplicity of languages in a film that has British, Punjabi, Tamil,

Japanese, Bengali and Burmese characters. The three lead actors – Kapoor, Sadh and Marwah – embody their patriotic characters with adequate amount of fervour. Basumatary, in his short role, plays Netaji Bose with conviction. But a special mention to Kenneth Desai, playing the acclaimed lawyer Bhalabhai Desai, who delivers lengthy courtroom arguments while trying to retain

the audience's attention.

A patriotic story of revolt against the British, *Raag Desh* is bound to glorify war and murder, and in doing so it stirs nationalistic sentiments through dialogues and music, but thankfully doesn't fall into the trap of establishing national identity based on religion.

In that regard, it emphasises on the representation of Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims as well as women in the re-

belling.

It's rather disappointing to see a film that ticks all the right boxes, fall apart because of the lack of a captivating narrative.

With *Raag Desh*, you may walk home with more facts about the INA and the Red Fort trials than previously known, but not with indelible emotions of admiration and awe that the film could have generated.

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IN BRIEF



**Charismatic star**

Bollywood actor Jackie Shroff, looking dashing in his chic attire, was the centre of attention when he was invited at Hotel Th Lalit. Up, Close and Personal, an interactive session with the actor, was hosted by Aanchal Sethi, Chairperson of Young FICCI Ladies Organisation. Narrating his journey from being Jaggu Dada of the Teen Battli area to heights of stardom, Jackie says: "Success never comes easy, everyone has to do their bit of struggle and hard work. That struggle keeps you grounded and humble. In due course of success I realised that if there's no struggle in your path, then that path is not right. We need to be patient and consistent with our efforts and believe in yourself, all this will lead to success ultimately."

**International beauty**

Fifty two finalists of the Haut Monde Mrs India Worldwide finale will be held at Kingdom of Dream in Gurugram on August 5. This was announced by Bharat Bharam, founder and chairman of Haut Monde India Group at Connaught Place in Delhi. This international beauty pageant provides a platform to married Indian women and is contested by Indians from across the world. After auditions across metros and online auditions of Indians residing overseas, these women qualified for finale.

**Women decoded**

Billed as an inspirational play, Ambika: A Poignant Reflection on Being a Woman was staged in Delhi recently. The occasion was Capstone WLFA launching Delhi Chapter of the Women Leadership Forum of Asia. Leogirl Productions has always believed in using storytelling to create a more diverse and inclusive society.

# Straight from the heart

As *Mubarakan* attempts to bring some cheer at the box office, Ileana D'Cruz opens up on her choices and challenges

ATIF KHAN

Ileana D'Cruz does not see competition from her contemporaries a "threat" and only takes it as an opportunity to polish her craft. Playing characters like Julia Roberts did in *Eat Pray Love* fascinates her and she wants to be a part of emotion-driven realistic films. On her recent visit to the Capital, she opens up on her equations with male actors, her decisions in the industry and mental health of celebrities.

Excerpts:

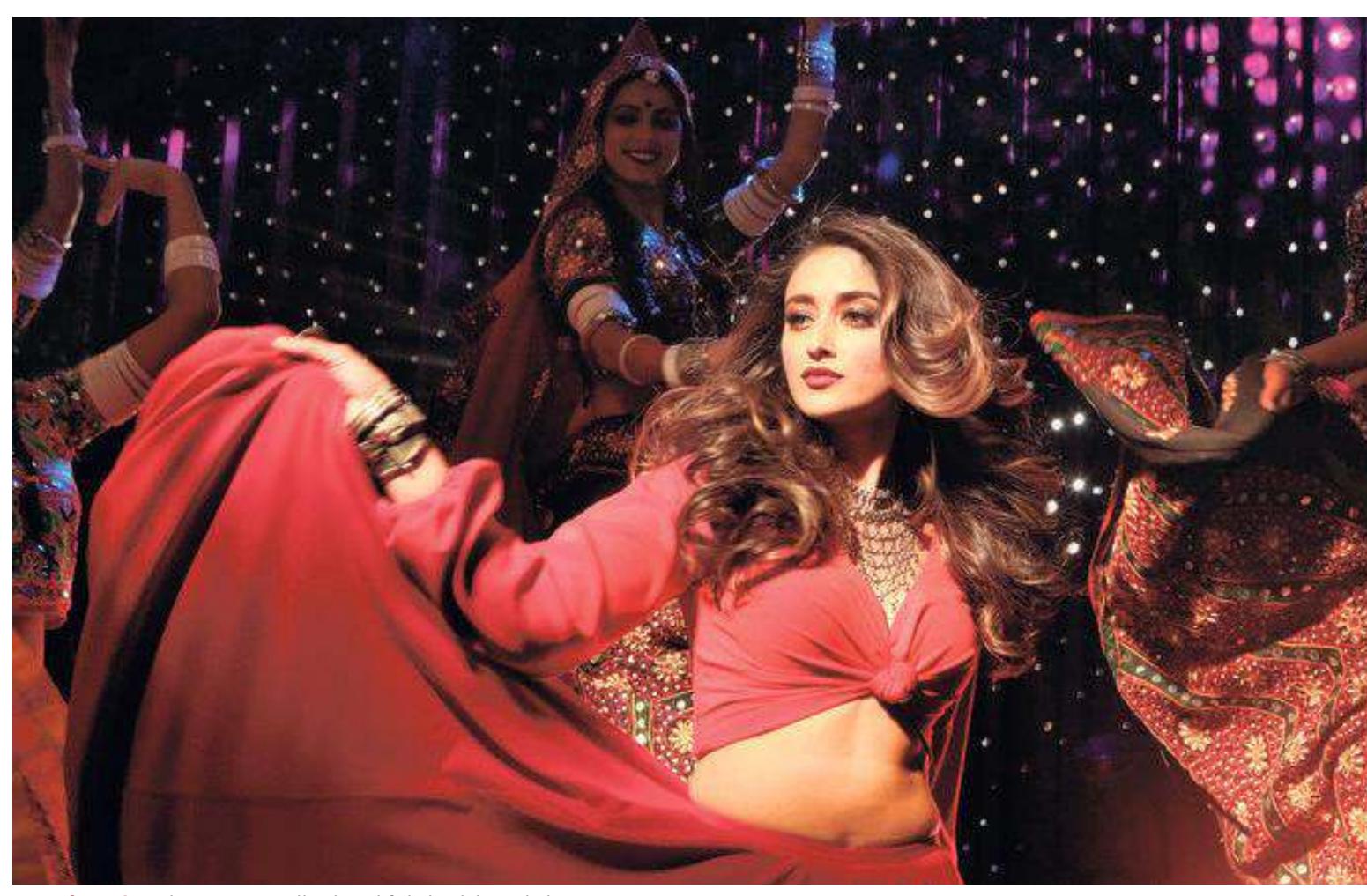
**How was your experience in *Mubarakan*?**

■ It is a very different role. I am playing a Punjabi girl Sweety, fairly hands-on for a Goan. It was challenging in that way but there is a lot of me in her, like she is also a fire cracker and stubborn. In my first meeting with Aneesji (Bazmee), he seemed to be very intense and reticent but he was one of the best actors we had on sets and reminded me of Davidji (Dhawan) who is also a prankster on sets. Arjun and I needed to be comfortable with each other so we talked a lot on sets, and he, sometimes, sang for me too. I did not have a formal equation with him and we were chilled out from day one. Anilji (Kapoor) was a big burst of energy who made an impact on me with his positivity.

**How does this equation with a fellow male actor works for you?**

■ It depends a lot on the kind of story and the genre of the film. This was such a fun film, so that is why it was very easy for us to have conversations on sets.

■ People usually look at us and think we have everything. They have to understand it can happen to anyone



**Game for variety:** Ileana D'Cruz talks about life behind the arclights • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Everyone is different like Saif (Ali Khan) is completely chilled out and easy going person while Varun (Dhawan) is a firecracker. He felt like a college buddy with whom I can have conversations about anything. Romancing with him was a little bit tricky as he felt like a friend (laughs). Ranbir (Kapoor) was not talking in the film (*Barfi!*), so he did not speak on the sets either. Our conversations happened only during the promotions of the film, so I do not know him much.

**After more than 20 films in your kitty, how do you look back at your journey?**

■ There were some good films and some bad ones. In

the South, I was new and did not know anything about the industry. So some films were commitments but once I moved to Bollywood, my criteria changed. I wanted to do something different in every film so I started doing films that challenged me as an actor. I was told that shelf life of female actors is only five years but it has been 11 years and I have nothing that I regret so far.

**Do you agree that of late you have become choosy?**

■ Yes, a little bit but I am fortunate that those films to which I said no, did not turn out very well. I think a lot and I worry a lot, so I keep thinking that would people like my work and would they

go and see it in the same way I am doing. One part of me is very selfish who wants to be in every movie! But then I still have to think whether the audience would like it.

**Are you taking your decisions very cautiously?**

■ I do not carry an image as I have done all kind of roles- be it glamorous or performance oriented ones and there were no regrets with my decisions as I went ahead with my own gut feeling. You only live once, how can you plan? I want to take risks as the role should take me into that zone which actually makes me nervous on sets and make me ask, 'Will I be able to do it?'

**Becoming an actress was also not planned...**

■ I never wanted to be an actor as I had different plans at different points of life. Once I wanted to be a singer but as I felt shy singing in public it never happened. Then I decided to become an air hostess so that I could visit exotic places for free but the most sensible one was to become a fashion designer.

**Do you aspire to be a fashion icon?**

■ I just hate the words icon and star and I treat myself very normal. I cook my food, clean my house. We are not 'untouchables'; we are human beings who are meant to make mistakes.

I hope someone will not take everything I do as an inspiration. I am a total misfit in this life and to

protect myself from acting misfit in this whole drama, I take it all as a big party where everyone is enjoying and I go with the flow.

**But your decisions always inclined towards commercial films with big names...**

■ I have not asked directors to cast me; they offered to me those roles. I

would not be lying if I say I always wanted to work with the bigger actors as it gives you a bigger pull and a better looking film comes out when you have budgets and big actors. I can take risk in terms of what character I am playing but not with the other aspects including other main lead actors.

The recent suicide of Chester Bennington spurred the debate of depression among celebrities. What is your take as you are vocal about mental health issues?

■ I do not do it to get attention but I have a genuine concern for mental health as I know what it feels like. I know how hard it is, I have been dealing with depression and anxiety for the past three years. Chester was too young and that reminds me of Robin Williams who made you laugh for years but actually was not a happy person. People usually look at us and think we have everything. They have to understand it can happen to anyone. There were days when I used to close myself up in my home for weeks not wanting to go out. I used to cry for no apparent reason and that was the time when I was doing two really big films. We should discuss it so that people know it.

Lastly, how different was *Badshaho* for you?

■ *Badshaho* is a risky move as it has a very different role for me, something that I had never imagined of myself. It was a selfish decision to play that role as it was challenging. With Ajay (Devgn), it was really a very different equation and despite being a superstar with a huge fan base, he was unbelievably supportive which was great. Though we had talked a lot, the seriousness and intensity remained intact between us!

FOOD SPOT

## Fondue memories!

Carrying on the tradition of her father, Christia Rozario serves all kinds of delicious satays with fondue at her newly-opened restaurant in Kolkata

RAHUL VERMA

There is something about Kolkata, you must admit. I like it for a host of reasons, despite the slow-moving traffic, signals that appear to be in deep slumber and horns that seem to be on steroids. I have some good friends there and enjoy eating out in the city, though I often feel that Kolkata – once

the hub for Chinese and Continental food – now lags far behind Delhi when it comes to restaurants.

One of the first chef friends I made there was Pradip Rozario, who runs a restaurant called K K's Fusion in the city. He floored me with his food, and I remember in particular a special fondue meal that he had prepared for us, where we dipped all

kinds of Indian kababs into the creamy and thick fondue.

So, when he told me that his daughter had opened a restaurant in Kolkata, I was very happy. Christia Rozario runs the new restaurant called Rozario's at Sarat Bose Road (Phone No: 033-24661979), and during a visit to the city last week, I promptly stopped there for a meal.

It's a small restaurant, with a counter in front with little samples of all that they serve. Christia is a young and enthusiastic food lover who studied hotel management in Kolkata, and then studied further in Florida. Now she's back, and has started her own venture.

This was where her father opened his first restaurant, called Curry Klub. Rozario's serves all kinds of satays, and a few special dishes on popular demand, such as carbonara pasta, cooked in a cheesy sauce with bacon.

I enjoyed the satays immensely, especially the

Balinese chicken satay (₹289) and the pork sausage satay (₹289). The chicken dish had the aromatic flavours of herbs and other ingredients used in Southeast Asia – such as basil, lemon grass, galangal, coriander leaves and red chillies. It also had a hint of rosemary in it. These had been dry roasted and then powdered and mixed with minced chicken. The satay came on a lemon grass stick, which gave it a nice punch. And since Chef Rozario (Sr) knows about my love for pork, she had put a bacon strip around one of the satays. The dish came with various kinds of dips – chilli mayo, coriander mayo dip and sour cream dip.

**Home-like flavour**

What I enjoyed about the pork sausage satay was the Indian, almost home-like flavour it had. That's because, I later discovered, the sausage meat had been mixed with chopped onion, coriander leaves, green chillies, chilli powder, cumin powder and

garam masala powder. Some pork fat had given it the smoothness it needed, and a dash of mustard oil in it gave the dish a heady aroma.

There was an interesting deep-fried fruit satay (₹210) with ganache – a whipped cream and chocolate mix. The fruits – apple, pineapple, banana and litchi – had been dipped in a pancake batter and then fried. The one dish that disappointed me a bit was the carbonara, which I found a little dry. But that could also be because I make a mean carbonara myself, and have got used to a particular consistency and taste.

The satays are the restaurant's signature dishes, along with its vegetable casserole and escalope of chicken wrapped in bacon. There is also fried fish for ₹359 and fried potatoes with cheese for ₹249 on the menu.

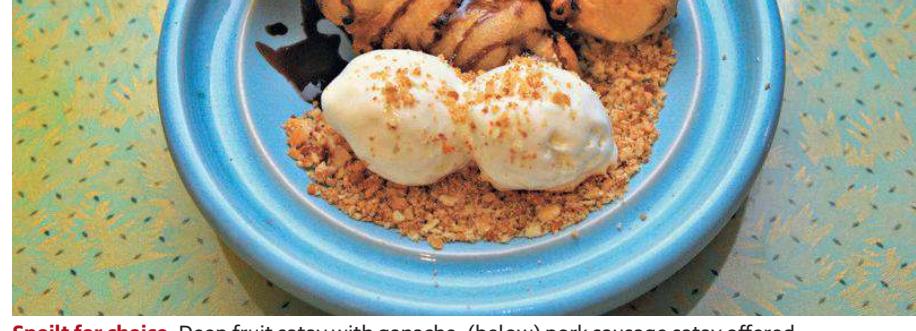
But clearly satays rule at Rozario's. They serve Mexican potato satay (₹229), chilli paneer satay (₹229) and the one that I am going to try when I am in the city next – gondhoraj infused spicy

prawn satay (₹309). Gondhoraj is a heavenly lemon with a fragrance that can turn anything around – from dals and light fish curry to sweets and nimbu pani.

And, of course, there is the old favourite, fondue, which is served at Rozario's with satay. I didn't try it out, but Christia tells me that it is one of the popular dishes at the restaurant.

I am not surprised. After all, like father, like daughter.

THE WRITER IS A SEASONED FOOD CRITIC



**Spoilt for choice:** Deep fruit satay with ganache; (below) pork sausage satay offered at Rozario's • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

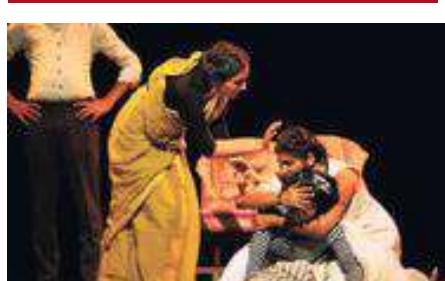


## Bishnoi motifs

"My collection is a tribute to the Bishnoi tribe of Rajasthan. We celebrate the Bishnoi community's dedication to care for environment. Motifs depicting birds and trees celebrating the Bishnoi's love for nature form the core of this collection," says Anita Dongre, on her collection Tree of Love, which will be showcased at ICW at Taj Palace in Delhi this Saturday.

Inspired by Rajasthan's craft, Anita Dongre has created handcrafted bridal gotta patti lehengas, hand-woven Banarasi creations, Obi belts and embroidered jackets.

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



THEATRE

**Jeevita Chellave**

Vayam Performing Arts Society will be staging the play "Jeevita Chellave" (The Cost of Living). Directed by Sakshi Jainini, it is based on Arundhati Roy's novel, "The God of Small Things". It sheds light on the tragic events that take place in Ipe family due to the insecurities of two Siamese twins, Estha and Rahel.

VENUE: Lok Kala Manch, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

TIME: 7 p.m.



MUSIC

**Atma**

Atma, the word for 'soul' in Sanskrit, best describes the approach of this ensemble to music. The music of these four musicians is borderless, and with ease fuses Indian classical music, Western classical music, and jazz. The members of the band are Muthu Kumar, Grilli Pollheimer, Patrick Dunst and Aman Mahajan. The venue: Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi. TIME: 9 p.m.



RECITAL

**Mehfil**

IIC will be presenting a Mehfil with Pandita Shubhada Parakar (Khayal). Her musical journey started in Baroda where she learnt from Pandits R. D. Potdar and Madhusudan Joshi of the Kirana and Agra gharanas and Pandit Gajananrao Joshi. She will present select ragas and compositions from the Agra and Jaipur-Atrauli gharanas. VENUE: Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi. TIME: 6.30 p.m.



MUSIC

**Nizami Brothers**

Lodi - The Garden Restaurant will be hosting the young and dynamic Nizami Brothers who are rich in Sufi and cultural music. The team has three main lead singers Faizan Nizami, Zeeshan Nizami and Khwaja Hasan Nizami, who belong to a family that are the descendants of court singers of Mughal kings for several centuries. VENUE: Lodi Road, New Delhi. TIME: 8 p.m.



PLAY

**Chakravyuh**

The play "Chakravyuh" starring Nitish Bharadwaj as Krishna will be staged. Written and directed by Atul Satya Koushik, this play in Hindustani tells the story of the 13th day of the battle in Kurukshetra that marked the demise of the brave Abhimanyu. It explores all the questions, myths, ideologies and convictions related to the event. VENUE: Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House. TIME: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.



## Hop, skip and ale

From brews guarded by Trappist monks to yeast banks and waiting lists, beer in Belgium is no simple drink

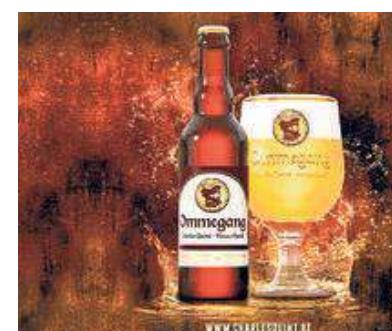
VAISHNA ROY

There's a beer called Westvleteren 12, often considered the best in the world. At around €40 a case, roughly ₹3,000, it's not exactly the most expensive beer. But it is the most elusive, which puts it right on top of the 'most-wanted' list.

Westvleteren 12 is one of 11 official Trappist beers in the world today, but what makes it the most sought-after is the fact that it's available only at the monastery in Belgium.

When in 2005, ratebeer.com ranked Westvleteren 12 (10.2%) the best in the world, the monks of Saint Sixtus Abbey in Vleteren suddenly found their quiet lives invaded by beer nuts. They should have been overjoyed, but Trappist monks don't do business for profit. As the Father Abbott said succinctly: "We only brew beer to be able to afford being monks."

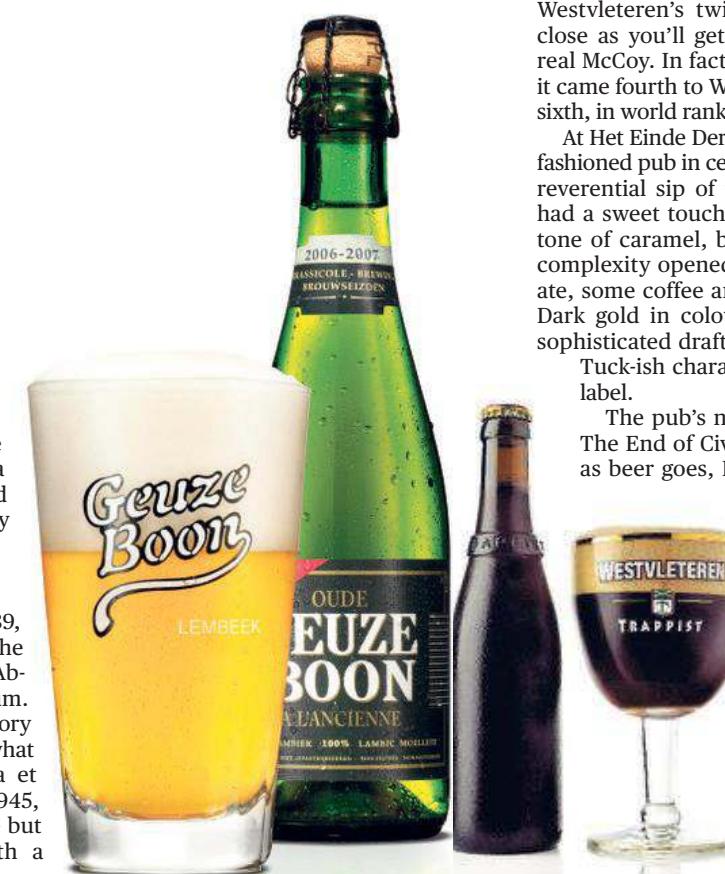
So they wouldn't sell it openly. And



when in Belgium? You drink St. Bernardus, which is almost Trappist and far easier to procure. But before I tell you why it even comes close to Westvleteren, you should know that Trappist beers get that label only if they are brewed inside an abbey; if a monk oversees production, and if all profits go towards charity or abbey restoration.

### Hops with history

Now, let's flashback a bit. In 1789, during the French Revolution, the monks of one Mont des Cats Abbey fled to a village in Belgium. There, they set up a cheese factory and a brewery because that's what Benedictine monks do – Ora et Labora (Pray and Work). In 1945, the monks returned to France but left the brewery behind with a



private merchant who, luckily enough, landed a 30-year licence from some neighbouring monks who wanted to focus on prayer. The licence was to brew Westvleteren.

It was only in 1997, when the International Trappist Association was founded with its strict rules, that the monks took back Westvleteren. But they allowed the brewery to continue using the same formula – albeit with different water and yeast. And that's how St. Bernardus (10%) beer was born.

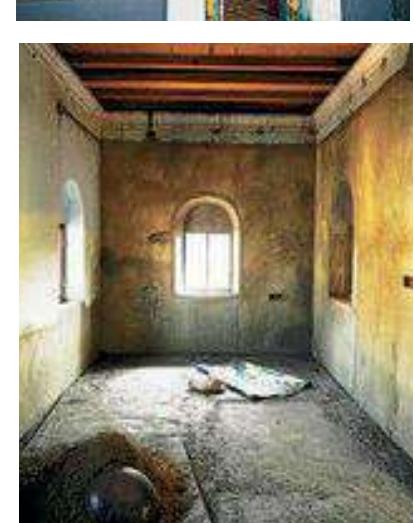
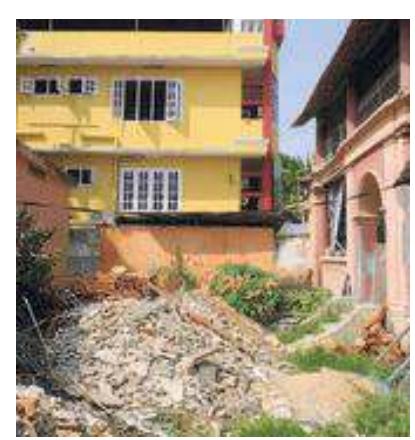
So, the brew is really

Westvleteren's twin, as close as you'll get to the real McCoy. In fact, in 2014, it came fourth to Westvleteren's sixth, in world rankings.

At Het Einde Der Beschaving, an old-fashioned pub in central Ghent, it took a reverential sip of the mock monk. It had a sweet touch with a first undertone of caramel, but then a lingering complexity opened up – dark chocolate, some coffee and hints of banana. Dark gold in colour, it was a warm, sophisticated draft belied by the Friar Tuckish character on the bottle's label.

The pub's name translates into The End of Civilisation, but as far as beer goes, Belgium claims it is

**Tipple time:**  
If rare beers like the Westvleteren 12 don't entice you, try the Brussels Champagne (Geuze Boon)



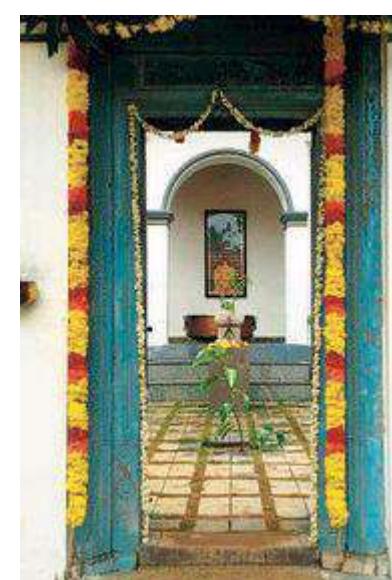
## + Blue door to the past

Filmmaker Latha Menon's restored 135-year-old ancestral home, a five-year project, proves that holding on to the past is worth it

SURYA PRAPHULLA KUMAR

Till recently, one of the calling cards of Valiyasala, a bustling corner of Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, was its centuries-old *agraharan* (traditional row houses of the Brahmin community, now declared a heritage site). But now, if you continue down the road and over a small incline, you will come upon Mundanad house, a 135-year-old property that has been renovated and restored – over a span of five years – to its former glory. And, according to Latha Menon, Chennai-based filmmaker and the woman behind the passion project, it all began with memories.

"It was a very warm, welcoming house. During summer vacations, it became our (17 grandchildren) playground. I still remember running down the stairs, sleeping in the hall and enjoying my grandmother's cooking," she tells me over the phone. The 2,200 sq ft property, with Dutch Colonial features, was part of a larger *tharavadu* (ancestral home) that was torn down to make apartment blocks. Her grandmother, Ammini Amma, however, continued to live in the *malika veedu*, and when, in 2011, part of the roof caved in, Menon stepped in.

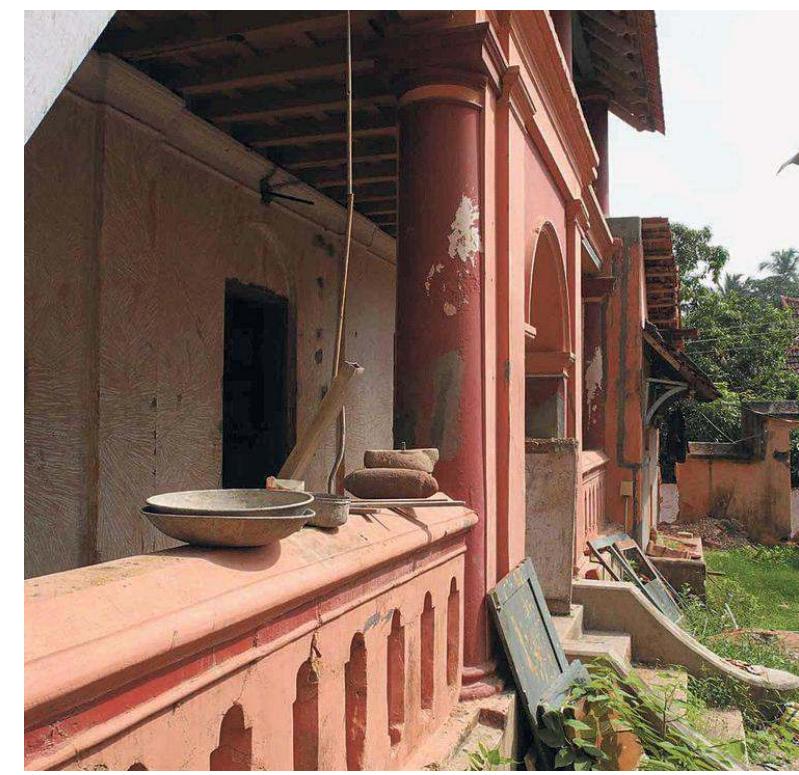
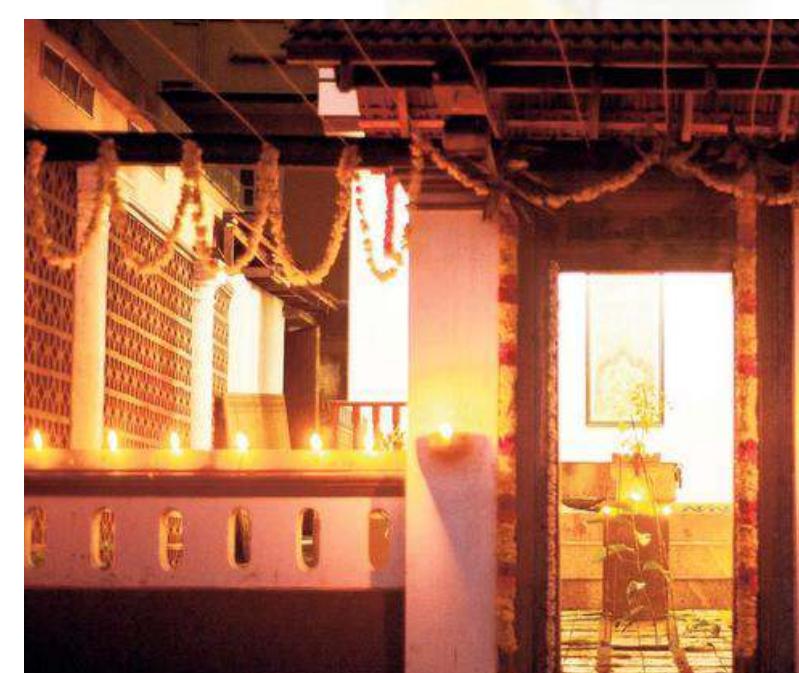


### STANDING TALL

■ The restoration work, which came up to almost ₹40 lakh, also included walls with a lime plaster (or egg plaster) finish, a Chettinad technique that gives them a mirror-like sheen. And in her quest for authenticity, Menon worked with Rohith of Classic Lights, which specialises in vintage lighting. "While I purchased some old fixtures from Chor Bazaar, the rest Rohith recreated for me," she says. And Vijay ensured that the switch boards matched, with old ivory switches nested in wooden boxes.

cincing the foundation and walls with concrete, head carpenter, Jokhu Prasad Sharma, began work on recreating missing railings, strengthening rafters and repairing old teak doors and windows.

Meanwhile, Menon, who shuttled between Chennai and Valiyasala through the entire project, scoured local antique stores in Kovalam. "The *mukhappu* (an ornamentation on the roof) had completely deteriorated, so I went looking for one. I also found the blue door of the *padippura* (entrance to the courtyard) there, which I thought suited the architecture," she says. But it is other discoveries within the house that she cherishes. "I found a wooden chest full of old black-and-white photographs that dated back to the early 20th century, when my



grandfather graduated as a barrister," she says, adding, "I framed and put them up in the rooms – a slice of history that's part of the house's history. Sometimes you have to spend time in such places to rediscover your past."

### Keeping it boutique

Over the years, the team stayed on site, gradually working from within and without. Study rooms were converted into bathrooms, the kitchen got a functional update, and an old bathroom that abutted the building got a few additions. "Besides providing a third bedroom, one of the main rea-

sons we built on that structure was so we could hide a 'modern' yellow-and-red building that stuck out like a sore thumb behind it," Vijay laughs. A little hidden alcove they discovered upstairs also became a convenient water tank.

Menon departed from Kerala traditions when it came to the flooring. As her hunt for someone to recreate the old red oxide turned up nought, she looked to Chettinad tiles. "Since I wasn't planning on putting any paintings on the wall, I brought colour into the floor – with beautiful blue-and-chrome-yellow tiles that go with the ambience." Calling it a quaint, almost

### CHUG IT RIGHT

There's more to beer glassware than the ubiquitous mug. The Belgians have, of course, taken this to a whole new level, but here's the basic science behind it:

■ Tall and slender glasses allow yeast to settle at the bottom while snifters work best for aromatic and high alcohol beers, where the hand warms the liquor. American pint glasses let you drink the beer quickly while it's still cold.

■ Keep the mugs for German and British ales and lagers. The stange or tall cylindrical glass is best for ales and pilsners. With wheat beers getting popular, get some Bavarian Weizens, tall with broad tops. The flute works best for fruity beers.

just the beginning. And after the mind-boggling variety I had just consumed, I was happy to believe that.

### Serious brews

For a laidback people, they take their beer very, very seriously. Almost as seriously as the French take their wine and bread. And just as the French swear by the flour of a particular mill and sniff if you don't use levain for fermentation, Belgian beer swears by the yeast. Yeast is the exclusive property of a brewery, never shared, and becomes the finger-print of a beer. There are, in fact, yeast banks to guard against accidental losses.

Try Geuze Boon (7%) or 'Brussels Champagne' to discover exactly how yeast works. A lambic beer that uses wild yeast and is re-fermented after bottling, Geuze is a whole new animal – neither ale nor lager but close to a very dry wine, clear and sour. Pour it really carefully, leaving a little at the bottom, which is where the yeast is. Swirl and pour this into the glass and voila! the beer will turn cloudy and the taste, instantly more full-bodied.

Let me end, though, with what turned out to be quite my favourite beer and my favourite yeast, Keizer Karel Ommegang (8%). Made of three hops, it still has a bit of the original yeast used in the 1500s. We poured out the straw-blond beer carefully without disturbing the yeast. It was metallic, somewhat bitter. Then we added the yeast and, wham, it turned into a complex, sweet, smooth creature, with citrus notes and rich, feminine grace. No wonder the Belgians say they drink their beer like wine.

The writer was in Belgium at the invitation of Tourism Flanders

**Tipple time:**  
If rare beers like the Westvleteren 12 don't entice you, try the Brussels Champagne (Geuze Boon)



**Snapshots:** (Left) The property before renovation began, (above) Menon with her 102-year-old grand uncle, Ayyappa Pillai, who lived in the Mundanad house as a young boy

boutique-like house, she has ensured the furnishing complements it. Much of it is from her grandmother's collection – like an old four-poster bed, a *divan* she got re-caned and *urulis*. But she's also brought down a few pieces, like a swing, from her personal collection. "Every time I go there, there is something in the air that cocoons me. My grandmother (who passed away before the renovation was completed) is in every corner," says Menon, who is currently working on a script for a feature film. Incidentally, one of the first scripts she wrote (almost eight years ago) revolves around a restoration architect! "I would like to make the house into a creative hub for people who appreciate architecture and history. Let's see how that develops," she concludes.

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