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Anju Bobby George resigns as Kerala Sports Council chief
Page 8



Renowned qawwal Amjad Sabri shot dead in Pakistan
Page 14



Brexit vote: D-Day for Britain as leave fears loom
Page 14



Kedar Jadhav's 58 helps India beat Zimbabwe in final T20I, win series
Page 18



BRIEFLY

Lightning kills 67 in Bihar, Jharkhand

PATNA: At least 57 people were killed when lightning struck in Bihar on Tuesday. The government has announced Rs. 4 lakh compensation for the kin of victims. In neighbouring Jharkhand, at least 10 persons were killed in lightning and thunderstorms.

■ **NATION | PAGE 9**

Anantnag registers 34 per cent polling

SRINAGAR: Thirty-four per cent of the electors voted in the Anantnag by-election on Wednesday. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti is in the fray, taking on the Congress and National Conference candidates.

■ **NEWS | PAGE 12**

Rs. 6,000 cr. package to help textile sector

NEW DELHI: The Centre has announced a Rs. 6,000 crore package for the textile sector to enable domestic firms to compete globally. It will help to create one crore jobs in the next three years.

■ **BUSINESS | PAGE 15**

Now, Hukum to release 'exodus list' for Shamli

MEERUT: After alleging "Hindu exodus" from Kairana and Kandha, BJP MP from Shamli, Hukum Singh, said on Tuesday that given the "deteriorating" law and order situation he will come up with a similar list for Shamli city soon.

■ **NEWS | PAGE 12**

Senior BSP leader Maurya quits party

LUCKNOW: With the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh only a few months away, the BSP was jolted on Wednesday, with its senior leader Swami Prasad Maurya quitting the party while attacking its chief Mayawati who slammed the "habitual party-hopper".

■ **NATION | PAGE 9**

METROPLUS
6 Pages

Done in 26 minutes



PICTURE PERFECT: ISRO launched 20 satellites on its PSLV C-34 rocket from Sriharikota on Wednesday, surpassing its 2008 record of 10 satellites in a single mission. The satellites were placed in orbit in 26 minutes. — PHOTO: V. GANESAN (REPORTS ON PAGE 8)

Jaishankar in Seoul for NSG push

ATUL ANEJA
SUHASINI HAIDAR

Fingers crossed as Modi set to meet Xi in Tashkent

BEIJING/NEW DELHI: India's efforts for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group will come to a head on Thursday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar rushed to Seoul for a last-mile push at the NSG plenary scheduled for Thursday, as India received more support for its case from France.

In public statements nei-

membership. Asked whether the PM will discuss the NSG issue with Mr. Xi, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Sujata Mehta said usually a "full review of the bilateral ties takes place on such occasions." — PTI

■ **LONG-DRAWN PROCESS LIES AHEAD | PAGE 12**

ther India nor China, that has opposed India's bid on the ground that it is a non-signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, indicated that they

are any closer to a breakthrough in the next two days.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said for the third consecutive

day that the issue of non-NPT state membership was not on the agenda at Seoul. Even so, Ms. Hua admitted for the first time that unofficial discussions on the applications from India and Pakistan had been taking place.

"The group has had three unofficial discussions related to the entry of non-NPT countries through Friends of Chair presided over by the Argentine Ambassador," she told *The Hindu* in a written response.

(With Kalloj Bhattacharjee)

■ **INDIA SEEKS IMMEDIATE NSG MEMBERSHIP | PAGE 12**

Madras, Bombay HC's to reflect city names

NISTULA HEBBAR

The Law Ministry has prepared a Cabinet note on a Bill changing the names of the High Courts.

According to senior Ministry sources, not only State governments but also the HC's have to concur with the name change as it involves technical issues regarding

statute books and the fact that the courts, especially the three presidency courts of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, were established under the Indian High Court Act of 1861.

"We have received concurrence from both the State governments and the two

HCs," a Law Ministry source said. The third presidency High Court in Calcutta, however, will have to wait awhile for its own name change to 'Kolkata High Court' as the court is yet to give its concurrence.

■ **CONTINUED ON | PAGE 12**

Call drops in Metros may soon be history

SWETA GOSWAMI

NEW DELHI: Still facing call drops during your metro journey? Things are set to get better as cellular coverage in the Delhi Metro is going to get an overhaul.

The decision was taken by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) after it received feedback from the public on poor mobile connectivity while on the go. The DMRC has identified the high-speed Airport Express Metro Line (AEML), which will be the first corridor to get improved cellular network.

"While we are aiming for Wi-Fi facility in the metro, we have to ensure that the quality of basic mobile network does not falter. Hence, we are augmenting mobile network in a phased manner in various corridors," said a DMRC official. Tenders for phase one of the project, wherein network on the AEML would be enhanced, have already been floated.

Explaining the scope of the project, the official said the selected telecom operator(s) will have to install the equipments providing shared mobile coverage of 2G/3G and 4G on at least 100 pillars of the elevated stretch of the airport line. For the underground section, right of way will also be provided to lay optical fibre cables and power cables to connect the

File photo of Delhi Metro Airport Express.

equipments. The 22.7-km-long AEML comprises six stations. The elevated portion is about 7.57 km -- Shivaji Stadium-Dhaura Kuan-AeroCity Section-- consisting of 271 pillars. Trains on this line have a designed speed of 135 kmph and maximum operating speed of 120 kmph.

"The selected bidder will have to provide the services of telecom solution to various telecom operators and other agencies by charging them appropriate licence fee. Also, the bidder, in turn, will have to pay a fixed amount of monthly licence fee and other charges along with applicable taxes, quarterly in advance, to DMRC," the official added. After this, the DMRC plans to lay cellular network in the underground stretch of the Violet Line extension (Mandi House-Kashmere Gate). "That will be our next priority as the line is almost ready and trial runs are likely to begin next month," said a metro official.

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Jaitley defends CEA after Swamy's salvo

Subramanian accused of anti-India stance when abroad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The BJP-led NDA government fielded Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to defend Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Arvind Subramanian on Wednesday, after he came under attack from BJP MP Subramanian Swamy on Twitter.

Mr. Jaitley also dismissed suggestions that the government and the BJP had failed to quell Dr. Swamy's tirade against Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan. "The government has full confidence in the CEA. His advice is of great value," Mr. Jaitley said at a Cabinet briefing.

Earlier in the day, the newly nominated Rajya Sabha MP had, in a series of tweets, demanded that what he called his "anti-India stance" on economic issues during his stints in Washington, at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and at the Center for Global Development.

Asked if the party did not agree with his views, when asked about Dr. Swamy's demand.

Wednesday's diatribe from Dr. Swamy came in the wake of the campaign he ran against Dr. Rajan over the past few weeks, which, it is widely believed, partly led to the sudden announcement last Saturday from the Governor about his decision to leave the RBI at the end of his tenure in September.

Asked if the absence of a defence from the government had led him to this decision, Mr. Jaitley said: "The BJP and the government did not concur with Dr. Swamy on his personal opinion."

National secretary Shrikant Sharma told a press conference that the party did not agree with his views, when asked about Dr. Rajan.

■ **CONTINUED ON | PAGE 12**

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI: In a move that is expected to cause much discomfort to four-wheeler owners looking to convert to clean fuel, no new CNG kits can be legally purchased for retrofitting from the open market as per a recent Delhi government directive.

According to a Transport

Department order, the government has indefinitely suspended installation of new CNG kits on 'in use' vehicles by an estimated 50 authorised private centres after receiving complaints of graft against some of them".

A source told *The Hindu* that the matter has been referred to the Delhi Police.

"Since allegation has been

received from some corners that some CNG kit manufacturers have been supplying unapproved/uncertified CNG kits for retro-fitment...all the MLOs are hereby directed not to endorse any CNG fuel in the vehicle registration certificates till further orders," said the order.

■ **DETAILS ON | PAGE 4**

Govt. bans retrofitting of CNG kits

JATIN ANAND

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■ **DETAILS ON | PAGE 4**

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DU gets over 2.5 lakh applications

Online registration process for admissions to under-graduate courses ended on Wednesday

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ

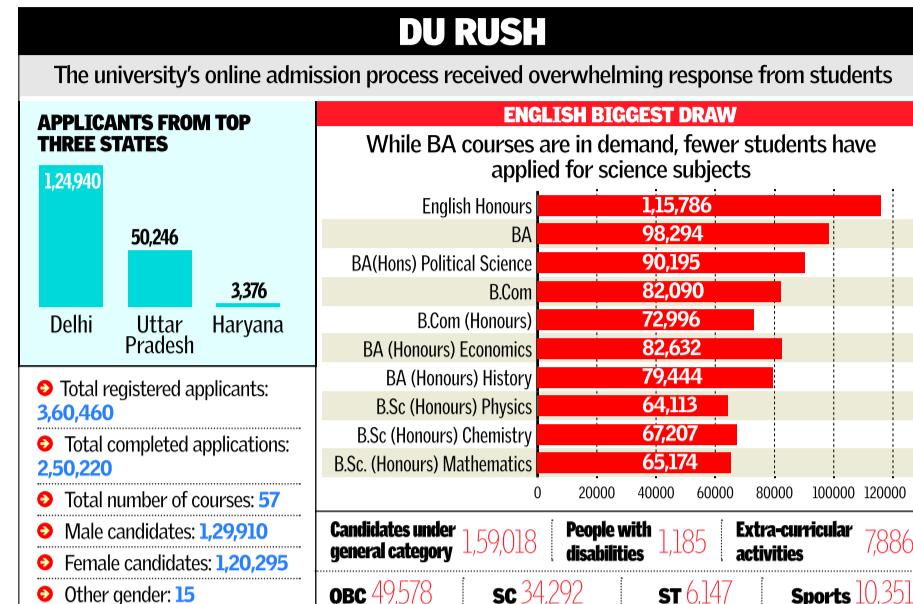
NEW DELHI: The online application process for admissions to under-graduate courses at Delhi University ended at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

The university, which switched to a completely online application system for the first time this year, received 2,50,220 complete applications. The number of applicants, however, saw a dip from last year when over three lakh students had completed the application process.

The Registrar of University of Delhi, Tarun Kumar Das, said in a statement: "Around 3,60,460 registrations were received across the country for 57 courses in different constituent colleges of the university, out of which 2,50,220 applicants completed the online registration process, including payment of fee."

Last date extended

Initially, the last date was June 19, but this was later extended to June 22 by the Admissions Committee, thus,



delaying the process by three days.

According to details provided by DU, 1,29,910 male candidates and 1,20,295 female candidates have applied this year. As many as 15 applications were received from candidates belonging to the 'other' gender.

Among the States, Delhi received 1,24,940 applications with Uttar Pradesh coming in second with 50,246 applications, while Haryana brought in 3,376 applicants. Within Delhi, the maximum number of applications — 21,284 — were received from the South Delhi

district.
Under the various categories, there were 49,578 OBC candidates, 34,292 SC applicants, 6,147 ST candidates, 1,185 PWD candidates, 7,886 ECA applicants and 10,351 candidates for Sports.

Of the 57 courses offered by various DU colleges, the

maximum number of applications — 1,15,786 — were received for B.A. (Hons.) English. Among the other popular courses were B.A. with 98,294 applications and B.A. (Hons.) Political Science with 90,195.

In the Science stream, B.Sc (Hons.) Chemistry was the most popular course with 67,207 candidates applying. B.Sc.(Hons.) Mathematics came second with 65,174 applications.

The schedule for fitness tests and sports trials for admission on the basis of Sports category has also been released and will be conducted between June 24 and July 2.

First cut-off list

The first cut-off list for admissions is expected to come out at 9 a.m. on June 30, while document verification for admissions will be conducted till 1 p.m. on July 2.

The second cut-off list will be released at 9 a.m. on July 5. The university plans to release five cut-off lists according to the number of vacancies.

Struggle for aid from ESIC is the real battle

AKANKSHA JAIN

NEW DELHI: Eighteen-month-old Rudrashni Vyas, 13-year-old Priya, and 24-year-old Dharmendra and his younger brother Vishal have two things in common — Gaucher's disease and the their struggle for medical treatment by the Employee's State Insurance Corporation (ESIS).

In some cases, the struggle has been on for eight years now. Even the recent orders of the Delhi High Court failed to help.

ESIC officials refused to comment saying the matter is sub judice. There is, thus, no news about when the High Court order will be implemented.

Rudrashni is a thin but active child with a pale complexion. Though he looks like any child his age, his swollen abdomen due to enlarging liver and spleen is a sign of Gaucher's disease, one of those progressive Lysosomal Storage Diseases that result in storage of fatty molecules in the body's organs.

Enzyme Replacement Therapy

His father Kapil, a textile factory worker, fears his symptoms will worsen overtime like another patient Dharmendra, due lack of timely Enzyme Replacement Therapy (ERT).

The treatment costs anywhere Rs.20 lakh to Rs.1 crore a year. Dharmendra said: "Eight years ago, I was diagnosed with Gaucher's disease. My younger brother Vishal is also suffers from the same disease. While Vishal managed to get treatment, I am partially blind with discolouration of the cornea, and have stunted with weak bones and joints. Vishal's treatment was also stopped sometime back when the ESIC cited a ceiling of Rs.10 lakh



Suffering from Gaucher's disease, the patients have failed to get help despite HC orders

in aid per year."

Unemployed due to his condition, Dharmendra is one of the six patients, including Priya, who moved the Delhi High Court against the ESIC and got favourable orders on May 31. However, he has not received even one ERT.

Estimate

Priya, who looks like any other teenager, suffers from acute stomach ache. The doctors at AIIMS gave her father Rajbali an estimate of Rs.86.62 lakh for ERT treatment every six months.

"She comes to ESIC head office here from Manesar and is sent to Faridabad, only to be referred back to Manesar. The HC order failed to get her more than a single therapy," said Priya's father.

Three other cases from Chennai that reached the Delhi High Court started receiving ERT through ESIC.

Their counsel Ashok Agarwal said: "We continue to hear of many such cases where the ESIC has denied treatment under Clauses 5.1 and 5.3 [Rs.10 lakh limit and no aid to beneficiaries insured after the date of birth]."

Manjeet Singh of Lysosomal Storage Disorders Support Society called for a policy for treatment of such diseases.

The life and legacy of Kumarajiva



SPRIT OF BUDDHISM: The exhibition, titled "The Life and Legacy of Kumarajiva," is on display at the India International Centre in New Delhi till June 26. — PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ

NEW DELHI: Buddhism in its various forms spread across the world due to the efforts of monks, scholars and missionaries. One such person was Kumarajiva.

Born in CE 350, he broke political, geographical, cultural and linguistic barriers for a long-cherished mission — propagation of the true spirit of Buddhism.

His father belonged to a politically-powerful Kashmari family, while his mother was the Princess of Kucha, a kingdom on the Silk Route.

Sutras

Kumarajiva's teachings even reached the shores of Japan, where devotees still chant the *sutras* translated by him in thousands of temples and monasteries.

Kumarajiva became a master at Sanskrit and Chinese, and translated Buddhist scriptures to Chinese

The exhibition, titled "The Life and Legacy of Kumarajiva," has been pieced together with the help of photographs and manuscripts at the Art Gallery, India International Centre here, by Shashibala.

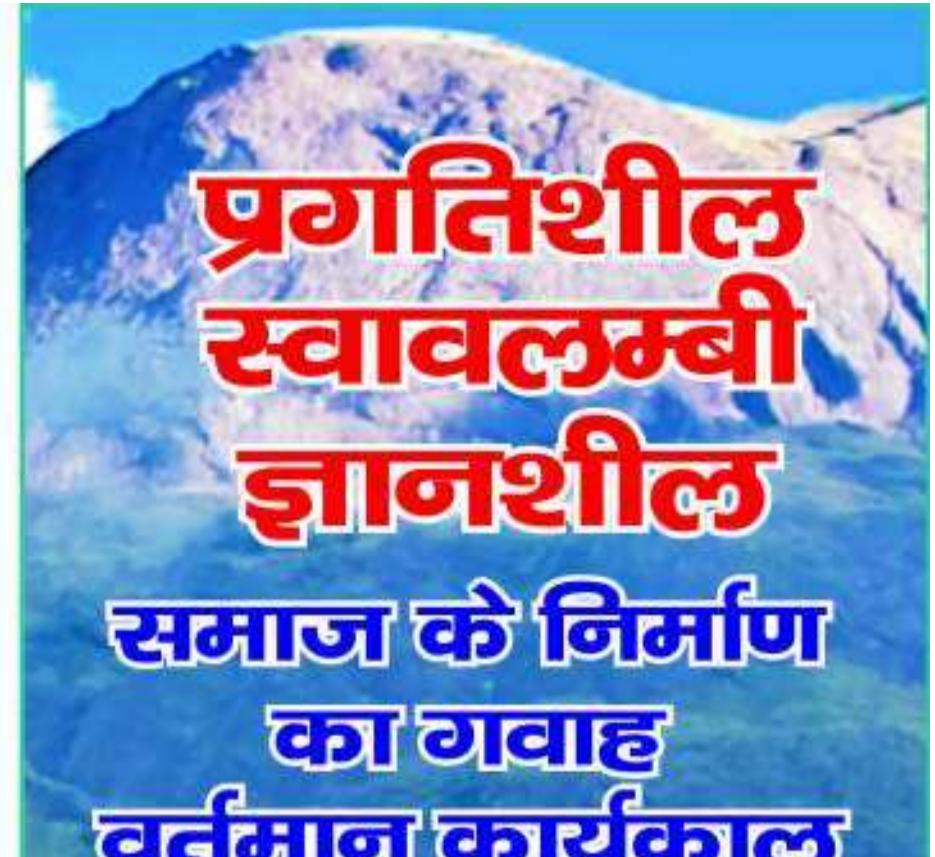
Meaning

Dr. Shashibala specialises in Buddhist art, iconography and Sanskrit as shared heritage and cross cultural connection among Asian countries. Kumarajiva rose to fame as he became a master at both Sanskrit and Chinese, and translated Buddhist scriptures from Sanskrit to Chinese, thus laying a strong foundation of Buddhism in China and East Asia.

Unlike other translators during his time, Kumarajiva did not literally translate the text as Chinese parallels of Sanskrit terms were not available. Instead, he prioritised on conveying the meaning as opposed to precise literal rendering.

The exhibition, through various visual aids, tells the journey of Kumarajiva through photographs of places associated with him, murals from caves, sacred objects and manuscripts of the *sutras*. Most importantly, it shows details of his life and journey, and the incidents that helped him spread the teachings of Buddhism.

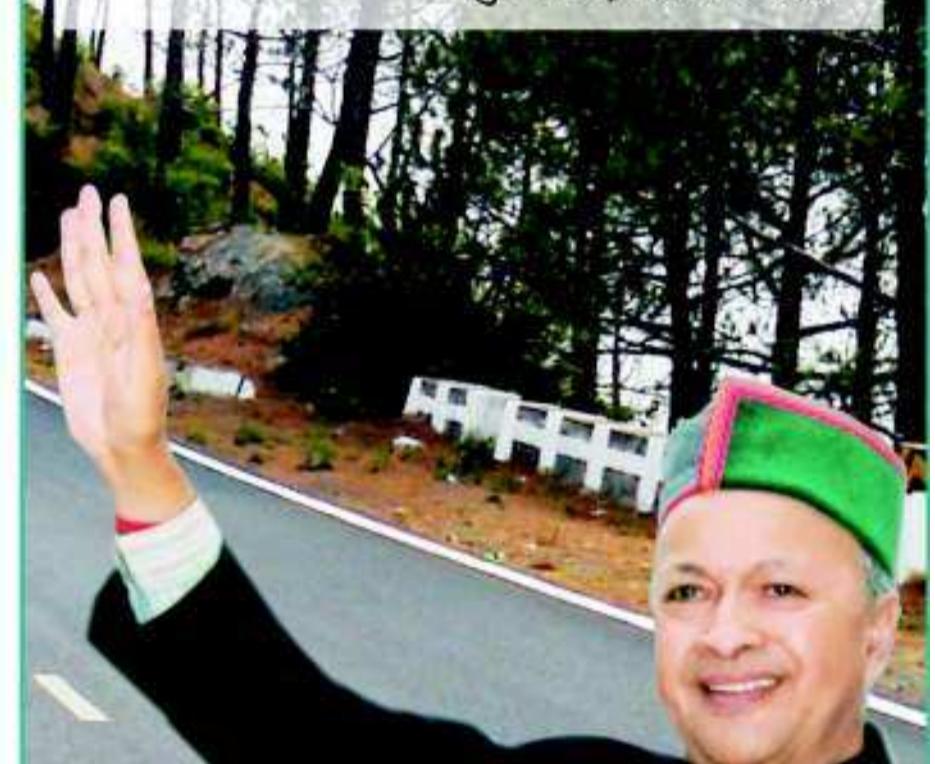
The exhibition is on till June 26



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MURKY TALE

Woman, daughter found dead in car in Munak Canal; husband detained

The woman's family has accused the man of murdering the two before pushing the vehicle into the water

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR

NEW DELHI: A 21-year-old woman and her five-month-old daughter allegedly died in a car that was found in the Munak Canal in Narela on Tuesday night.

The woman's husband, Anil, who was driving the car and lost control, claimed to have jumped out of the vehicle at the last moment. He has been detained and is being questioned. No case has been registered so far.

Foul play?

The family of the deceased, meanwhile, has accused Anil of murdering his wife and daughter before pushing the vehicle into the canal.

The victims have been identified as Hemlata and her daughter Pritika, residents of Nangal village.

Anil, who works as a driver, had borrowed the car from a friend, said



WATERY GRAVE: Hemlata (above) and her five-month-old daughter are believed to have died after the car they were in fell into the canal (right). Her husband Anil claims to have jumped off at the last moment. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



the police. He had gone to pick Hemlata and their daughter from her maternal home in Goga village and was headed towards Nangal village when he realised that he had left his mobile phone behind.

The accident happened when Anil took a u-turn towards Goga village. "He claimed to have forgotten his mobile phone, which is why he took a u-turn," said Mr. Singh.

Hemlata's uncle Sunil Bharadwaj, however, told *The Hindu* that Anil had been harassing Hemlata for dowry since their marriage in 2014.

According to the police, the woman's husband Anil called the police

around 10 p.m. on Tuesday. He told the police that the Maruti Eeco he was driving had fallen into the canal.

Cops initiate probe

"We sent a police team to the spot near Hanuman temple. Anil claimed that because of the light from an approaching vehicle, he was blinded and lost control. He told us that he did not have time to save the lives of his family members and remained a helpless spectator as the car fell into the canal. We are verifying these claims," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Vikramjit Singh.

Mr. Singh added that the road on which the alleged accident happened runs over the canal, with water on either side. During the summer, the water level dips, leading to greater impact due to a fall from a height.

The post mortem, which was conducted on Wednesday, has pointed towards death due to drowning.

"When the divers who fished out the bodies went in, they found the seat belt fastened. The onus is on the man to explain why he did not fasten his own seat belt, and that if he had, how he managed to jump off so quickly," said Mr. Singh.

Cop attempts suicide, survives

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: A 26-year-old Delhi Police constable allegedly attempted suicide by shooting himself at his residence in North-west Delhi's Swaroop Nagar on Tuesday night.

He had used his service revolver, said the police.

Despite the bullet passing through his chest and shoulder, constable Sunil Saini survived. At present, he has been admitted to a hospital where his condition is being monitored.

He did not write a suicide note. According to the police, the initial probe suggests he was troubled by some family issue.

Sunil Saini lives in a rented accommodation with his wife in Swaroop Nagar's Lakshmi Vihar. On Tuesday, he had locked himself up in his room after coming back from work.

Sometime later, his wife heard a gunshot and sought help from neighbours, who rushed the victim to a hospital.

The deceased had told Rakesh this, but he kept insisting that she live with him. This left her miffed and she asked him to keep away.

According to the police,



Accused Rakesh Kumar (above) attacked the woman in East Delhi's Gandhi Nagar (right).

PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The deceased, a domestic help in Gandhi Nagar, lived with her husband and daughter



Rakesh decided to kill the woman once he realised that there was little chance of him marrying her.

Stabbed eight times

He decided to attack her at 9 a.m., which is when she left for work everyday. He hid a pair of scissors, which he had picked up from his workplace, under his clothes and confronted the woman soon

after she left her home. Walking by her side, he insisted that she change her decision. When he saw that it did not have any impact on her, he assaulted her with the scissors.

Rakesh stabbed her at least eight times before people rushed to her aid. The victim was rushed to a hospital where she was declared brought dead.

Crane crushes worker

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: A 24-year-old man was crushed to death by a crane that was being used to carry heavy metal pipes on Tilak Marg here on Tuesday.

The victim was assisting the crane driver when he was accidentally run over, said the police. The crane driver was caught by people at the spot and handed over to the police.

Identified as Vipin Kumar, the deceased was a native of Bihar. He lived with co-workers in a slum in East Delhi.

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A Visionary Step towards a Greener Drive !

Launch of Pilot Phase of CNG for Two Wheelers

on Thursday, 23rd June, 2016, at CNG station
CGO Complex, New Delhi, at 2:00 pm

by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C)
Petroleum & Natural Gas

Shri Prakash Javadekar

Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C)
Environment, Forest & Climate Change

in the august presence of

Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi

Hon'ble Member of Parliament

HIGHLIGHTS

Expected to be substantially economical as compared to a similar petrol run vehicle

75% less hydrocarbon emission, 20% less CO emission*

First of its kind pilot project in India

Stop pollution #HawaBadlo with Natural Gas



INDRAPRASTHA GAS LIMITED



HawaBadlo



GAIL (India) Limited

*As compared to petrol driven similar models as per
tire emission test

Top DJB official resigns after Kejriwal 'humiliates' engineers at review meet

Engineers protest in front of Jal Board headquarters; to hold agitation at Delhi Secretariat today

DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI: Trouble was brewing between Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Wednesday, with the engineers of the water utility launching a protest against him for allegedly misbehaving with DJB officials.

Mr. Kejriwal suspended two engineers and allegedly humiliated other top officials during a meeting to review water supply on Monday.

After the meeting, DJB Member (Water Supply) R.S. Tyagi resigned.

Though Mr. Tyagi told *The Hindu* that he resigned due to "ill health", others present at the meeting said that the CM's statements had forced the move.

The Engineers Association of the DJB held a protest at the headquarters of the organisation on Wednesday in solidarity with Mr. Tyagi and the two suspended officials - Chief Engineer Y.K. Sharma and Executive Engineer B.C. Patel.

According to several engi-



RILED UP: Delhi Jal Board engineers protest against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly misbehaving with officials, at the DJB headquarters on Wednesday. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



RILED UP: Delhi Jal Board engineers protest against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly misbehaving with officials, at the DJB headquarters on Wednesday. PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

neers present at Monday's meeting, most MLAs commended the DJB for improving water supply, but some had complaints. The CM allegedly lashed out at the officials of those areas.

Foul language'

The association condemns in strong words the foul language used by the Chief Minister against the Member and other engineers, particularly when this

summer the DJB has achieved record water production and laid supply lines in 230 new colonies," said Shalabh Kumar, the president of the Engineers Association.

While demanding an apology from the CM and the reinstatement of those suspended, the engineers said they would continue to protest until Mr. Kejriwal apologised.

The engineers will hold a

protest at the Delhi Secretariat on Thursday, said Mr. Kumar. The engineers will continue to work, but will wear black arm bands in protest.

Predetermined'

The DJB has managed to increase the supply of treated water this past year by adding three new plants, achieving over 900 million gallons per day (MGD) of supply for the first time.

"Instead of appreciating

the water supply management, the Chief Minister chose to target individual officers without any grounds as if he was predetermined to suspend some of the officers and derive mileage," said Mr. Kumar.

Despite repeated attempts, no comment could be obtained from the government spokesperson and the DJB chairperson Kapil Mishra, who did not attend Monday's meeting.



BATTING POLLUTION: After autorickshaws, cars and buses, two-wheeler will now be fitted with CNG kits. The Centre will be launching a pilot project today. FILE PHOTO

A first, CNG-fuelled two-wheeler

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: In an initiative aimed at curbing pollution in cities, the Centre will unveil a first-of-its-kind pilot programme to run two-wheeler on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) said in a statement on Wednesday.

According to the statement, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas (Independent Charge)

Dharmendra Pradhan, and Minister of State for Environment (Independent Charge) Prakash Javadekar will launch the project at the CGO Complex CNG station on Thursday.

Different models of two-wheeler fitted with the CNG kits are expected to be unveiled at the event, which is being implemented by IGL under the "Hawa Badlo" movement along with GAIL.

Under the directives of the Ministry of Petroleum &

Natural Gas and Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EP-CA), a massive exercise to augment CNG infrastructure is already underway in Delhi and NCR since January 2016 with the objective of promoting usage of clean fuel in the transport sector.

IGL has already set up 70 new CNG re-fuelling facilities in the last four months and another 20 would be ready soon to meet the growing demand.

The police, meanwhile,

said that no first information report (FIR) has been registered in connection with the matter nor has any complaint come to their notice so far.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Madhur Verma

According to a source, the decision will impact an estimated 50 private dealerships that provide retrofitting services in the Capital.

Vehicle owners opting for factory-fitted CNG kits will not be impacted.

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that former Chief Minister Sheila Dixit had appointed DIMTS as consultants to the DJB to commit a scam "against the rules without calling for tenders".

WATER TANKER SCAM

Name yourself as co-accused in four cases: AAP to L-G

Party also want ACB chief's name in FIRs; MLAs fail to meet Jung

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: A delegation of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs went to meet Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung on Wednesday demanding that he and the Anti-Corruption Branch chief M.K. Meena be made 'co-accused' in four cases pertaining to alleged scams during the Sheila Dikshit government, including the water tanker scam.

However, the delegation claimed that the L-G refused to see them and Raj Niwas staff told them that in order to meet Mr. Jung they would need an appointment.

The move comes two days after the ACB chief had said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal may also be quizzed, apart from Sheila Dikshit, in the water tanker scam case, after an FIR was lodged.

Bharti says he wants the cases forwarded to the House panel on petition, "which has power to summon L-G"

lunch over the meeting. What are his compulsions? What relations does he have with Mukesh Ambani's business house?" Mr. Bharti asked.

L-G sitting on all cases'

The AAP MLAs, in their letter, accused Mr. Jung of "sitting" on all the cases during the period of President's rule in Delhi and no action was taken in all the four cases.

"You (L-G) Najeeb Jung) have been protecting Dikshit in these four FIRs through your inaction. Mr. Meena, imposed by the Union government as ACB chief, has also colluded with you in this criminal activity. Kindly forward my letter to the ACB with a direction that Mr. Meena and yourself should be made co-accused in these four FIRs," a letter written by Mr. Bharti said.

"He seems to have chosen



ATTACK: AAP MLAs, including Somnath Bharti, outside the Raj Niwas on Wednesday. PHOTO: PTI

CNG KIT

'No FIRs registered yet, matter is top priority'

Decision will impact 50 private dealerships

JATIN ANAND SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR

NEW DELHI: Even as the Delhi Transport Department went into a huddle to discuss the way forward in relation to the directive banning retrofitting of CNG kit in 'in-use' cars, sources said the matter had been formally reported to the police for investigation.

According to a source, the decision will impact an estimated 50 private dealerships that provide retrofitting services in the Capital.

Vehicle owners opting for factory-fitted CNG kits will not be impacted.

The police, meanwhile, said that no first information report (FIR) has been registered in connection with the matter nor has any complaint come to their notice so far.

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CM allowed loss of Rs. 400 crore by sitting on report, says Gupta

STAFF REPORTER

that former Chief Minister Sheila Dixit had appointed DIMTS as consultants to the DJB to commit a scam "against the rules without calling for tenders".

He is as guilty as Dikshit'

"Earlier, the company hired by the DJB was being paid Rs. 3,700 per tanker per month as per terms of engagement. DIMTS, under a well thought-out conspiracy, recommended to the DJB that the contract be awarded to a new company, which led it to suffer a loss of Rs. 360.55 crores," Mr. Gupta said.

Mr. Gupta said that Mr. Mishra had written to Mr. Kejriwal on August 28, 2015, forwarding the fact-finding report of the tanker scam and to file an FIR to punish the guilty.

"Arvind Kejriwal kept the report suppressed for 11 months and the contract to these companies remained operative during his tenure. This proves that he is as guilty in the case as former CM Sheila Dikshit is...He should immediately resign taking responsibility for the tanker scam," the Leader of the Opposition said.

396 building plans get nod under online system

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: The three municipal corporations of Delhi have approved 396 building plans through the new online application system that was launched last month, said a statement from the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Wednesday.

A total of 609 applications have been received by the corporations, which have a common online platform for the service. Out of these only five cases were rejected for lack of adequate information, the SDMC said.

The SDMC had sanctioned 180 digitally-signed construction permits, starting with the first one on May 27. According to the new

Unified Building By-Laws, civic bodies have to either sanction a plan or reject the application within a month.

SDMC Mayor Shyam Sharma said the online system had made it easier for applicants, who no longer have to make several trips to municipal offices to get the building plan sanctioned.

The number of documents, including affidavits, have been reduced.

HC pulls up PWD for delay in its office construction

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court pulled up the Public Works Department (PWD) for delay in construction of a office building for the court.

Maintaining that the delay had led to increase in the cost of construction, the High Court said that despite repeated adjournments granted by it, the timeline promised by the PWD had not been followed.

The new office, whose foundation was laid in May 2013, will be known as S-Block. The civic body has assured the court that the tender for the block would be completed by this month-end and the bid finalisation process will be over by July 20. The work will be allotted in the next seven days.

"Let the timeline be placed on record... any violation of the timeline shall be viewed strictly," the court said in its order and listed the matter in July to monitor the progress.

The order came on a plea filed in December last year seeking directions to the Delhi government to provide sufficient funds for completion of the building, which is to be built on 2.27 acres of land in Bapu Nagar on the Zafar Hussain Marg.

In January this year, the Delhi government had told the court that 70 per cent of the construction amount had been sanctioned.

During 2012, online booking facility of 383 open spaces and 44 community halls of DDA for organising religious, spiritual and commercial functions as well as for circus and marriage activities was started.

be confirmed/approved online by the concerned Superintending Engineer (SE) of the zone but no time limit was fixed. Now for public convenience and to bring in transparency and efficiency, it has been decided that the concerned Superintending Engineer of the zone will approve the booking within three working days failing which it shall be deemed to have been approved with the full personal liability of the concerned SE," he said.

"To make the procedure faster and easier, the time for making payment has been decreased to 15 minutes, from 45 minutes," said a DDA spokesperson.

Time-bound service

At present, applicants

have to fill their details and upload scanned copies of required documents online and are required to make the payment within 45 minutes. "Earlier bookings were to

SDMC drive to get more kids into school

DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI: After four consecutive years of falling enrolment numbers, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) will carry out an intensive door-to-door survey and admission drive for its primary schools from June 27 till July 8.

As reported by *The Hindu* on June 16, the SDMC's 579 primary schools had seen four consecutive years of decreasing enrolment — from 3.40 lakh students in 2012-13 to 3.21 lakh in 2013-14 to 3.11 lakh in 2014-15 and finally to 2.94 lakh in 2015-16.

Besides enrolment, the average attendance of students in the SDMC's schools had also gone down from 63 per cent in 2012-13 to 58.70 per cent in 2015-16.

Recognising the need to improve enrolment, the SDMC's Education Department on Wednesday passed

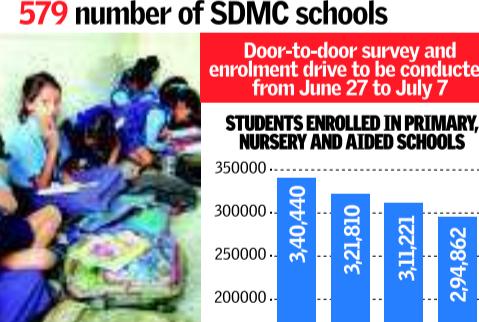
an order directing all school principals to organise the door-to-door surveys and enrolment drives from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"We have similar drives each year, but this year it will

WORRYING NUMBERS

Fewer students are enrolling

579 number of SDMC schools



be more intensive," said SDMC spokesperson Mukesh Yadav.

The drive will begin with principals mapping the area near their schools, especially taking into account slum

clusters, JJ colonies, unauthorised colonies, construction sites, tea shops and other places where children tend to be out of the formal education system.

The teachers will identify children who are not enrolled in any school, counsel them and their parents to get them to sign up for their local municipal school and give them admission forms. The data of the survey will be uploaded online every day for senior officials to monitor the progress of the survey.

Last year, the SDMC managed to add about 12,000 new students during the enrolment drive, said Mr. Yadav. In 2014, a similar drive saw 12,050 students being added to the rolls. While the ruling-BJP had seen this as an achievement, the Opposition Congress had said that these students would have sought admission even without conducting a special drive.

NGT tells govt. to revive water bodies

Hospital caught on the wrong foot

Man with a fractured right ankle operated on left foot instead

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI: In a shocking incident of negligence, doctors at Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh, operated upon 24-year-old Ravi Rai's left leg instead of his injured right leg.

The incident happened on Tuesday after Ravi fell down from stairs and fractured his right leg. His family rushed him to Fortis Hospital where doctors suggested a number of tests, including a CT scan and an X-Ray. Following this, doctors said that an immediate surgery was required as the condition was serious.

Horrific

But to the family's horror, doctors operated upon Ravi's left leg, which was perfectly fine. When the family came to know about this they called the police and registered an FIR against the hospital.

"Doctors told us that there was a fracture in the ankle of his right leg, and that they need to do a surgery to insert pins for support. Trusting them we agreed to the surgery. But later, when our son gained consciousness, we realised that instead of the right



NOT RIGHT: A video grab of Ravi Rai at the hospital.

leg, his left leg was operated upon," said Ramkaran Rai, Ravi's father.

Hospital statement

Hospital authorities, meanwhile, said on Wednesday that the matter was being investigated.

A statement issued by the hospital authorities said: "Following yesterday's incident, we immediately set up an Expert Committee. Their preliminary view suggests that in the rarest of aberrations, the operating team may have disregarded and sidestepped due processes. We take our obligation to patients very seriously."

As this is a zero tolerance area for us, the services of erring doctors and 'or' personnel (five) have been dispensed forthwith. Action against some others is also being contemplated, pending enquiry."

The statement added: "We regret the incident. We would like to re-assure all our patients that we are deeply committed to the purpose of providing sound medical care and to serving them with empathy and warmth."

The Delhi Medical Council has taken suo motu cognizance of the matter and initiated an enquiry into it. (With PTI inputs)

Seven-year-old drowns in septic tank

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: A seven-year-old boy died after he fell into a septic tank at a house under construction in Outer Delhi's Kanjhawala on Tuesday.

The deceased, Rocky, was a student of Class II. He lived with his parents and brother near the site where the accident happened in Gheora village.

Kid went missing

According to the police, Rocky's parents noticed his absence around 8.30 p.m.

"When his mother Dar-

shana could not find him, she started searching around the neighbourhood.

When she still could not find him, she called up her husband Narendra from his shop nearby. Meanwhile, Rocky's brother found his slipper near a septic tank and drew the attention of the locals," said a senior police

officer.

When they checked the septic tank, they found Rock-

y's body in the water.

Declared brought dead

The police was informed soon after and the boy was fished out of the tank.

He was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

"No external injury marks were found on the child's body. We do not suspect any foul play, but the cause of death will be ascertained once the post mortem report is out," said the officer.

AAP MLA booked for misbehaviour

SHIV SUNNY

NEW DELHI: An FIR was registered against AAP legislator from Sangam Vihar, Dinesh Mohaniya, on Wednesday after locals alleged that he and his supporters roughed them up and misbehaved with women.

The case registered at Neb Sarai police station accuses the AAP MLA of using words or actions intending to outrage the modesty of a woman, causing hurt and criminal intimidation, said Ishwar Singh, DCP (South).

Dinesh Mohaniya is also the vice-chairman of Delhi Jal Board. Repeated attempts by *The Hindu* to reach Mr.



Dinesh Mohaniya has been accused of using words that may outrage the modesty of a woman supply.

They alleged that their complaints were met with abuses by the MLA and his supporters.

Women roughed up

In their written complaint to the police, the residents alleged that the women among them were physically roughed up and expletives used against them.

They alleged that they were forced to leave after the accused threatened to 'break their bones'. The complainants then headed to the local police station to lodge a FIR.

Only a few days back, a video on WhatsApp had showed women fighting with each other in nearby South Delhi's Mahipalpur, leading to a news report that irregular water supply to the area was the reason behind the clash.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had then ordered his minister Kapil Mishra to visit the area. The same day, the Minister had taken to Twitter to rubbish the news, claiming that the fight was over using the road.

Tantrik held for rape

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: A tantrik has been arrested for allegedly raping a woman who had approached him for help after learning of her husband's extra-marital affair.

The 50-year-old tantrik, Sohaib Alam, was arrested on Tuesday after the woman informed the police.

The victim, who lives with her husband in West Delhi's Mianwali Nagar, had recently learnt of her husband's relationship with another woman.

"The victim discussed the situation with her sister-in-law. She was advised to seek the help of an astrologer or someone who practices witchcraft," said DCP (West) Pushpendra Kumar.

Locals told her about Alam, a tantrik based in nearby Jwalaipur.

The victim and her sister-in-law visited him on Sunday.

Alam took Rs. 2,500 as fee and asked her to visit the next day, but alone.

When she went back the next day, he said he would perform an "exercise" to solve her problem.

On this pretext, Alam allegedly began touching the woman inappropriately, causing her to raise an alarm. Claiming this was necessary for an effective solution; he overpowered her and raped her.

Victim threatened

When the woman was leaving, he forbade her from revealing the incident to anyone, threatening that the "treatment" would be ineffective if she did.

The victim then headed straight to her sister-in-law's house in Rajouri Garden and narrated the incident to her. On her advice, she dialled the police.

She was sent for a medical examination and counselled before a case was registered.

The accused was nabbed and questioned, but he claimed innocence before confessing, said the DCP.

Public suggestion invited for Metro fare hike

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: The committee set up to revise Delhi Metro fares has invited suggestions from people by June 30.

The 4th Fare Fixation Committee that assumed charge on June 9 has to submit its report by September 8. The final report could recommend a hike in tariff of the mass rapid transit. The notice inviting suggestions from people has also been displayed at major interchange stations of the



A notice in this regard has been displayed at major interchange stations of the metro network

4thffc@dmrc.org or by post addressing it to the chairman of the 4th Fare Fixation Committee, Metro Bhawan, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001," the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said in a statement.

Court acquits rape accused

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has acquitted a man accused of rape after the victim turned hostile and stated that there was nothing wrong in establishing physical relations with him because they were about to get married.

According to the complaint lodged with the Khajuri Khas police in North-East Delhi, the accused is the son of the girl's aunt (father's sister). The alliance was reportedly finalised when the accused and the girl were children.

The girl also became pregnant. When she asked the accused to marry her, he demanded Rs. 2 lakh in cash and a gold chain, the complaint said.

Also, the girl had urged the police to initiate prosecution proceedings against the accused if he did not marry her.

However, in her evidence during the trial, she gave the

accused a clean chit.

"The accused established physical relations with her consent several times during his stay at her home. The accused never demanded any money or jewellery to solemnise the marriage," the girl said in her evidence.

The girl also said that there was nothing wrong in the accused establishing a physical relationship with her as he was about to marry her.

Since the girl has not supported the case of the prosecution...no incriminating evidence could come on record to connect the accused with the present case," Additional Sessions Judge Ramesh Kumar said while acquitting the accused.

The accused was nabbed and questioned, but he claimed innocence before confessing, said the DCP.



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टीम पतंजलि

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श्री आर. कुमार	विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी, वैशिख अर्थ...
डॉ. एम. कुमार	भारतीय राजव्यवस्था
श्री संजीव शर्मा	पर्यावरण, पारिस्थितिकी एवं आपदा प्रबंधन
श्री सुजीत सिंह	भारत एवं विश्व का इतिहास
डॉ. वी. आनंद	कला एवं संस्कृति
श्री ए.के.अरुण	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था
डॉ. पीयुष चौधेरी	अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंध
श्री पंकज मिश्रा	सामाजिक न्याय एवं मुद्रा
Senior Bureaucrat	आंतरिक सुरक्षा एवं गवर्नेंस
संजीव श्रीवास्तव	भारत एवं विश्व का भूगोल

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- समय-समय पर सफल अभ्यर्थियों से भी मार्गदर्शन

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Youth booked for desecrating Jammu temple

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR: The "mentally challenged" youth, at the centre of a temple desecration controversy in Jammu, was booked on Wednesday under the harsh Public Safety Act (PSA) that denies an accused bail for at least six months.

An official spokesman said the Jammu administration ordered detention of Yasir Alfaz, son of Kher Din, a resident of Village Shiva, Baderwah, in Doda district, under the PSA, 1978, for his involvement in the sacrificial act at the Aap Shamboo Temple in Janipur on June 14.

The incident had sparked rioting in Jammu. At least 22 protesters were arrested after three police vehicles were set on fire and several policemen were injured.

State Law Minister Abdul Haq had informed the House that the youth was "mentally disturbed."

Subhash Chandra fails to appear before EC

CHANDIGARH: The Election Commission, which is holding an inquiry into the 'ink' row surrounding the Rajya Sabha elections in Haryana held recently, on Wednesday deferred the hearing till Saturday.

While Congress-backed losing candidate R. K. Anand appeared before Haryana's Chief Electoral Officer, media baron Subhash Chandra who won with BJP's support, sought more time to appear as he was away.

Congress alleged Chandra and BJP were adopting "delaying tactics". - PTI

PM to form panel to resolve Punjab procurement issues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In a bid to swiftly resolve the Cash Credit Limit (CCL) and other related issues associated with procurement of grains from Punjab, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday decided to constitute a high-level committee.

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, who met Prime Minister here, said in a statement that Mr. Modi decided to constitute a high-level committee comprising of officers of both the State and Central governments to resolve CCL and other related issues pertaining to grain procurement at the earliest.

Earlier, Mr. Badal also met Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, urging him to put in place a permanent mechanism for reimbursing the entire expenditure meted out by the State in procuring foodgrains for the country.

"We procure the foodgrains for the national pool. However, there was a vast difference between the expenses incurred by the States



MANY HASSLES: Workers pack wheat at a procurement centre in Chandigarh.

on behalf of the Centre. I sought his personal intervention for early resolution," said Mr. Badal.

Earlier, Mr. Badal also met Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, urging him to put in place a permanent mechanism for reimbursing the entire expenditure meted out by the State in procuring foodgrains for the country.

"We procure the foodgrains for the national pool. However, there was a vast difference between the expenses incurred by the States

and price given by the Central agencies," Mr. Badal told reporters, adding that there should be a permanent solution for this matter.

Mr. Badal said the Centre should come up with mechanism for settlement of all the issues of the CCL so that hard working and resilient farmers of Punjab do not face any sort of problem.

Taking strong exception on branding of Punjabis as drug addicts, Mr. Badal said that though not even a single ounce of drug was produced in the State, some "forces" were hell bent upon labelling the Punjabis as drug addicts.

"As Punjab was on transit route of drug smuggling so it was fighting nation's war against drugs," Mr. Badal said adding that the State government has launched a vigorous campaign to check drug peddling in the State but certain political parties, with vested interests, were labelling the entire State as drug addicts.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



DEATH
10-10-1941 to 21-06-2016
Dr.C.Kanakavalli
Reader (Rtd.), Dept. of Geography,
Queen Mary's College, Chennai
passed away around
11.25 pm on 21 June 2016.
The last rites were performed
on 22nd June 2016.
From Mudumby Family
044-22520883

M. VISWANATHAN (85), Chartered Accountant, son of (late) Author Madhava Iyer, passed away on June 22, 2016, in Chennai. Mourned by children Mahesh, Sumathi and Charumathi, their respective spouses Lalitha, Suresh and Sriram, and grandson Tushar. Last rites on Thursday June 23, 10 am. Contact 044 24465684 / 9940108006

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'Ragging': FIR names 2 students

Kalaburagi police failed to record Aswathy's statement after the incident

T.V. SIVANANDAN
MITHOSH JOSEPH

KALABURAGI/KOZHIKODE: The Kozhikode Medical College police registered an FIR against two students of Al Qamar College of Nursing in Kalaburagi accused of involvement in the 'ragging' incident, in which Dalit nursing student K.P. Aswathy was allegedly forced to consume toilet cleaner on May 9.

In Karnataka, it was revealed that the Kalaburagi police failed to record the statement of the victim just after the incident, and did not visit her college or hostel before she returned to Kerala.

The 'lapse' in recording the statement in Kalaburagi was disclosed by authorities at Basaveshwar Teaching

and General Hospital, where the first-year B.Sc. Nursing student of the Al Qamar Nursing College was admitted for severe abdominal pain.

Although the hospital staff informed the Roza police about the case the same day, and a team arrived on May 10 to record her statement, they went away after doctors said the student was not in a position to make a statement. The police did not return to the hospital, sources said.

The student was "discharged against medical advice," as per hospital records, at 2.45 p.m. on May 11.

The police, however, did not make any attempt to visit her hostel or the college to record a statement, though she stayed in the town till May 13 before leaving for

Kerala. Superintendent of Police N. Shashikumar confirmed that Kalaburagi police had not recorded the student's statement.

He told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that he was yet to get the First Information Report filed by the Kozhikode police before registering a case in Kalaburagi for investigation.

Police sources said Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kalaburagi A Division, Jahanavi, had been appointed investigating officer.

FIR against two

The Kozhikode Medical College police team led by Circle Inspector Thottathil Jaleel registered the FIR on Tuesday after collecting a statement from Ms. Aswathy, who is admitted to Kozhi-

kode Medical College Hospital.

The FIR was forwarded to police in Kalaburagi.

Mr. Jaleel said the FIR was registered against final year nursing girl students, one from Idukki district and another from Kollam district.

"As we have no direct involvement in further investigation, we have forwarded the FIR to Karnataka police," he said on Wednesday.

Kerala State Human Rights Commission member P. Mohanadas, who visited Ms. Aswathy in hospital, asserted that the Commission would take up the issue if it was not properly addressed by the police.

"We will get in touch with the human rights panel in Karnataka and initiate action," he said.

No point in continuing in post: Anju

A. VINOD

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Ace athlete Anju Bobby George has tendered her resignation as president of the Kerala State Sports Council (KSSC), after coming under attack by Sports Minister E.P. Jayarajan on June 7 for "corrupt" deals.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Anju, after a meeting of the KSSC administrative board, hit out at the government.

"I believe that certain vested interests have got together right from the day we decided to appoint an Ethics Commission and got approval for it from the previous government. Our intention was simple, to fight corruption and nepotism, and to ensure that sportspersons were not harassed by anyone," she said.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the government would soon appoint a new board to oversee the matters of the KSSC.

With the decision to stop

STAFF REPORTER



BENGALURU: If you have been using cabs in Bengaluru, booked through aggregators, taking the cashless route may not be a good idea. Several passengers say drivers start the 'trip' without picking them up; then after a few kilometres, they end the 'trip' and the money gets deducted from the would-be passenger's e-wallet.

On seeing that money has gone from their e-wallet, even though they haven't boarded the cab, passengers try to call the driver, who ignores them.

They are then forced to hire another cab.

"I live in a lane off the main road and in the mornings, the road is jam packed with vehicles. Earlier, most taxi drivers would ask me to cancel their trip. But now they say they are coming and keep us waiting. A few minutes later, they refuse to take calls," said Kaushik Chatterjee, a resident of Old Airport Road.

With the decision to stop

of action taken against the cab driver, we rarely get any feedback from the company except an apology," said Paapiya Neogi, an advertising professional.

Ola gets licence

Taxi aggregator Ola became the first of the five companies which had applied for licence under Karnataka's taxi aggregator rules to be issued a licence on Tuesday.

The company had submitted all relevant documents for 100 cabs, the minimum required under the Karnataka on-demand Transportation Technology Aggregators Rules, which came into effect earlier in April this year.

The Transport Department clarified that only 100 taxis registered under the new rules could ply legally. However, no action would be taken as the department had given an undertaking to the High Court that it would not seize vehicles until the court ruled in the case.

surge pricing, many drivers haven't been getting the extra money for plying during peak hours.

Many harried passengers

allege that drivers are making up for the lost money by giving 'fake trips'.

Those who use e-wallets are the ones worst-affected. Such instances mean a long-drawn process of complaining to the aggregator and then waiting for a refund.

"It is just unfair; we get bills for amounts like Rs. 80 and Rs. 100 which is deducted. When we ask for details

• Last date for Submission of tender: 23.07.2016

◆ Contact: Mrs.ChitraVenkatesan,Sr.BM(Mktg)-Chennai Ph.No.9962035360

Sr.BM(Mktg)-Chennai

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No: KSWC/Com-7/TEN-SRF/CDM-IV/186/2016-17 Date: 22-06-2016

CORIGENDUM - IV NOTIFICATION

Ref No: (1) KSWC/Com-7/TEN-SRF/CDM-IV/224/2016-17 Date: 16.04.2016. (2) No: KSWC/Com-7/TEN Addendum/Corrigendum-SRF/498/2016-17 Dt: 07.05.2016, 590/dt:24.05.2016, 752/dt:31.05.2016 & 934/dt:10.06.2016. The Corporation has invited Short-Term tender through e-procurement portal for Installation of Roof Top Solar PV SYSTEMS Operation and Maintenance for 25 years on Revenue sharing basis for 162 MW. The last date for submission of tender through online is extended up to 11.07.2016 up to 5.00 PM. The technical bid of the tender and Financial Bid will be opened on 14.07.2016 at 11.30 A.M. and 18.07.2016 at 11.30 A.M. respectively. For more details, the tenderer may contact e-procurement website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or helpline: 080-22371090/22340060/22340948. Sd/- Managing Director, KSWC

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA (Public Works, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department)

National Highways

Office of the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Urwa Store, Ashoknagar, Mangalore - 575 006. Ph: 0824-2450415

Email : eenhdmgm@yahoo.com

No. NHD/MNG/JE-NH-169/NIT/2016-17/03 Date: 20.06.2016

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Mangalore, on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Tenders in Two cover bids under e-tendering system in MORTH e-procurement website [https://morth.mproc.in](http://morth.mproc.in) as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 Rule 2000 from Class-I contractors registered in KPWD for the following works.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Amount Put to tender Rs.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Widening to 2 lane with Paved Shoulders from Km.683.00 to Km.693.00 of NH-169 (Old NH No.13) Sholapur-Mangalore Section in the State of Karnataka. (Job No. NH-169-KNT-2016-17-801)	2563 Lakhs	38,40,000/-	11 Months
2	Reconstruction of Cross drainages from Km.590.00 to Km.610.00 on NH-169 (Old NH-13) Sholapur-Mangalore Section in the State of Karnataka. (Job No. NH-169-KNT-2016-17-802)	2089 Lakhs	31,30,000/-	11 Months

Last date for receipt of tenders: 19.07.2016 upto 16.00 hrs. The further

details of the tender can be obtained from this office during office hours in person or by logging on to the Ministry website [https://morth.mproc.in](http://morth.mproc.in)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Mangalore

Date this 18th day of June 2016.

XLVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge,

Bangalore City (Special Court for trial of CBI Cases)

R.O. No.DIPR/MCA/356/16-17

CMYK

DE-Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Mangalore

Date this 18th day of June 2016.

XLVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge,

Bangalore City (Special Court for trial of CBI Cases)

R.O. No.DIPR/MCA/357/16-17

CMYK

ISRO launches 20 satellites

The organisation surpasses its 2008 record of launching 10 satellites in a single mission

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN

SRIHARIKOTA (A.P.): Expanding its horizons, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday launched 20 satellites through a single rocket, surpassing its 2008 record of launching 10 satellites in a single mission.

Besides the primary Cartosat-2 Series satellite, the PSLV C-34 rocket launched two satellites from Indian universities and 17 foreign satellites, including one for a Google company.

After the 48-hour countdown, the PSLV rocket lifted off from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here at 9.25 a.m. and, some 16 minutes later, placed the Cartosat-2 Series satellite about 505 km above the Earth's orbit. In the next 10 minutes, the remaining 19 satellites were placed in the orbits.

ISRO chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar announced the success of the launch.



ON CLOUD NINE: ISRO chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar flanked by mission director B. Jayakumar (left) and satellite director M.A. Sadananda Rao, after the launch of PSLV C-34. — PHOTO: M. PRABHU

GHGSat-D (Canada) and 12 Dove Satellites (USA) were the other satellites that were launched.

The 725.5-kg Cartosat-2 series satellite would be for Earth observation and its imagery would be useful for car-

ographic applications, urban and rural applications, coastal land use and regulation, and utility management like road networking, ISRO said.

In 2008, ISRO launched 10 satellites in a single rocket. On April 28, 2008, its PSLV-

C9 rocket launched a Remote Sensing satellite CARTOSAT-2A along with Indian Mini Satellite (IMS-1) and eight nano satellites.

In 2014, Russian Dnepr rocket launched a record 37 satellites in a single mission.

'Looking for fours & sixes, rather than singles'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRIHARIKOTA (A.P.): With a need for about 70 satellites in the next five years, besides the contracts signed with foreign companies to launch their satellites, ISRO is looking for several multiple satellite launches through a single rocket.

ISRO Space Centre Director M. Annadurai said: "We have about 35 satellites in orbit and we need about 70 satellites in the next five years. So,

launches are being planned for 2016-17," he said, adding the market for small satellites was a new business avenue opening up.

He said that Antrix had generated a revenue of about Rs. 1,800 crore during the last fiscal and a major share was from leasing out transponders.

ISRO Chairman Kiran Kumar said Pakistan had opted out of the SAARC satellite plan and so it would be known as the South East Asian satellite being built by India.

Sailor found hanging at naval aircraft yard

STAFF REPORTER

KOCHI: In a suspected case of suicide, a Navy sailor was found hanging at the Naval Aircraft Yard at the Kochi Naval Base on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Roopa Ram, 25, an Electrical Artificer (Air

Radio). Ram was found dead at the aircraft yard when personnel reported for work in the morning.

The Harbour Terminus Police have registered a case.

After conducting an inquest, the body was shifted to the Alappuzha Medical

College Hospital for autopsy.

Ram, hailing from Nagpur in Rajasthan, is survived by his wife and a nine-month-old son. The family has been informed and the Navy has ordered an inquiry into the incident.

(With inputs from PTI)

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Lightning kills 57 in Bihar

At least 10 persons killed in neighbouring Jharkhand

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA: At least 57 people were killed and over two dozen injured when lightning struck in Bihar on Tuesday. The monsoon rain reached the State amid lightning strikes. The State government has announced Rs. 4 lakh compensation for the kin of victims.

Patna district was the worst hit as eight persons were killed in Bihta, Naubatpur and Danapur.

The other affected areas were Aurangabad, Purnia, Kaimur, Rohtas, Saharsa, Katihar, Buxar, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Munger, Bhojpur, Madhepura, Supaul and Kishanganj.

Admitted to hospitals

Those injured in the lightning strikes were admitted to hospitals. Thirteen animals too were killed in the incident. "The thunderstorm accompanied by heavy rains on Tuesday killed at least 57



DEVASTATING IMPACT: A tree is uprooted in Patna following storm and rain. — PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

people ... more details are awaited," said Vyajji, Principal Secretary of the State Disaster Management department.

In the neighbouring Jharkhand, at least 10 persons were killed in lightning and thunderstorms.

"We have given Rs. 4 lakh

compensation to family members of each victim," Chandrashekhar, Bihar Minister for Disaster Management, told journalists.

Emergency meet

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar called an emergency meeting of Ministers

and officials to take stock of the situation.

Mr. Kumar asked the officials to keep a constant vigil on the flood situation in the northern districts.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological department has forecast that rain will lash Bihar for the next three days.

Activists question court order sending elephants back to circus

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI: Rights activists are up in arms against an "unsympathetic" court order that they say will adversely affect the lives of four blind and sick elephants.

The elephants had been confiscated from Rambo Circus after it was accused of violating several provisions of the law and inflicting cruelty on the animals.

"In a shocking recent order by a Pune court, four suffering elephants used by a circus for illegal performances were ordered to be sent back to the Rambo Circus based on a loophole created by an inadvertent procedural flaw in the confiscation process by the enforcement authorities," said a release issued by a non-governmental organisation here on Wednesday.

Cruelty

Wildlife SOS, one of the largest rescue and conservation charities in South Asia operating ten wildlife rehabilitation facilities across India, has also launched a petition to request the government and the courts



PAINFUL ORDEAL: The four elephants, aged between 25 and 52, were allegedly forced to perform painful and unnatural tricks in the circus for decades. — PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to reconsider the decision.

Wildlife SOS said the four elephants aged between 25 and 52 had been forced to perform painful and unnatural tricks in the circus for decades.

During evaluations, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and the Central Zoo Authority, both autonomous bodies of the Government of India, found severe violations of the law, including instances of cruelty.

In a joint operation, the District Collector of Pune, along with the local police

and officers of the AWBI, carried out the confiscation and handed over the four elephants to Wildlife SOS for long-term care. Dogs and horses were sent to organisations such as PFA Pune, ResQ and Animal Rahat.

Rambo Circus moved court, seeking the custody of the elephants and other animals. "In an astonishing decision, the court has issued an order that all four elephants rescued from Rambo Circus be returned to the circus immediately," Wildlife SOS said.

Bhujbal, nephew granted bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) court granted bail to NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal and his nephew Sameer in the Maharashtra Sardan case and Mumbai University cases.

Although the duo has been granted bail on Rs. 50,000 surety each, they will continue to remain in Arthur Road jail as they have been arrested by Enforcement Directorate for cases of money laundering against them.

The uncle and the nephew were produced in court on Wednesday after production warrant was issued against them on June 15.

Special public prosecutor Pradeep Ghatal told the court to issue a non bailable warrant against son Pankaj Bhujbal and the court has directed him to present in court on July 22. Last week, the court took cognisance of the 20,000 pages charge sheet by the agency that has statements of 60 witnesses.

From the Bhujbals, Manikalingam Saha, Sanjay Joshi, Deepak Deshpande, Anilkumar Gaikwad, Pravin Chamankar and Prasanna Chamankar have also been named.

Varsity founder held after student alleges rape

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat police have arrested 66-year-old Jayesh Patel in connection with a rape and sexual harassment case filed by a 22-year-old nursing student in Vadodara.

Patel is a politician and founder of Parul University.

"He was arrested late on Tuesday night from Anand. The police got a medical test done on him," said a police official as the accused was being produced in the court for seeking his police custody.

Earlier, Bhavna Patel, rector of the women's hostel in Parul University, had been arrested in connection with the case.

The nursing student had lodged a police complaint alleging that she was raped by Patel.

Delhi BJP accuses AAP govt. of 'number plate scam'

NEW DELHI: In a move that may trigger further tussle between the Centre and the AAP dispensation, Delhi BJP has registered a complaint with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) accusing the Kejriwal government of indulging in corruption in contract of High Security Number Plates project

BJP has registered a complaint with the ACB over contracts of High Security Number Plates project

garb of arbitration."

"The two committees formed by the Delhi government in 2014 and 2015 had found various irregularities such as procurement of the plates from unapproved source and overcharging but the company was allowed to issue the registration plates under the garb of arbitration," Mr. Khurana alleged.

Fact-finding panel

Rubbishing allegations of irregularities, the AAP government said in January 2014 that the then Transport Minister Sourabh Bhardwaj had constituted a three-member

fact-finding committee.

On the basis of the committee's report, the AAP government had terminated the contract with the company in February 2014, said a senior government official.

Mr. Singh alleged in his complaint that the scam was to the tune of Rs. 300 crore.

"It is a more than Rs. 300 cr number plate scam involving Kejriwal govt. Let ACB enquire into my complaint?" he said in a tweet.

Baseless allegations

"False, frivolous, baseless and unsubstantiated allegations and complaints are being run against Rosmerta HSRP Ventures Pvt. Ltd at the behest of its competitors in business with a view to stifling competition in implementation of HSRP projects," the company said in a statement. — PTI

Court tells son to vacate mother's property

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has asked a man to vacate his mother's residence and pay her damages of Rs. 10,000 per month till the accommodation is handed over.

The woman had purchased the 34-square yards property with her savings while ironing clothes in West Delhi's Tilak Nagar.

She had permitted her son to stay on the second floor of the property after he got married, but the couple started harassing the woman soon after. Also, they did not bear any expenses, the woman said in her complaint.

Complaint filed

Before moving the court, the woman asked her son to vacate the premises. She also filed a police complaint against him, but he did not move out.

In his defence, the man said that the property was purchased by his father — a claim he could not prove. Later, he said that he was a tenant and was paying his mother a rent of Rs. 1,000 per

month — which too he failed to prove.

The court then declared him an unauthorised occupant, asked him to vacate it and pay damages to the mother.

Plaintiff (woman) having been able to prove on record the occupation of the defendant (woman's son) in the premises as a permissive user being her son, and the defendant failed to prove on record conversion of his status from a permissive user to a tenant at any point of time, plaintiff is held entitled for possession of the premises i.e. second floor of the property..." said Additional District Judge Savita Rao.

"Defendant having become an unauthorised occupant, upon his failure to vacate the premises within the time frame as permitted by the plaintiff in the legal notice,... the defendant is liable to pay damages at Rs. 10,000 per month after 15 days of the date of legal notice till handing over possession of the premises to plaintiff," the Judge added.

Senior BSP leader Maurya quits party

LUCKNOW: With the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh only a few months away, the BSP was jolted on Wednesday, with its senior leader Swami Prasad Maurya quitting the party while attacking its chief Mayawati, who slammed the "habitual party-hopper".

Sixty-two-year-old Maurya, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, said he felt "suffocated" and accused Ms. Mayawati of "auctioning" tickets for the next year's Assembly polls.

The MLA from the Padrauna Assembly constituency and a Minister in the former Mayawati government left the BSP amid speculation that he might join the ruling Samajwadi Party and could be made a Minister when Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav expands his Council of Ministers on June 27. I feel suffocated and cannot continue in the party any more," he said at a hurriedly

convened press conference here.

"Today I have written a letter informing her (Mayawati) that I am relinquishing all party posts," he said.

Attacking the BSP chief, Mr. Maurya said: "Tickets are being openly auctioned by Ms. Mayawati on a large scale. She is not making the right choice of candidates. Tickets are not only on sale in the party, they are being auctioned."

He also accused Ms. Mayawati of "murdering" the values and principles of B. R. Ambedkar and BSP founder Kanshi Ram.

To a question, Mr. Maurya said he would announce his next course of action soon.

He is said to be in close touch with senior SP leaders Shivpal Singh Yadav and Mohd. Azam Khan, giving rise to rumours that he was cosyng up to the ruling party in the State. — PTI

'80 per cent of Karnataka's maternal deaths in 2015-16 were because of preventable causes'

AFSHAN YASMEEN

BENGALURU: In a startling reflection on Karnataka's poor maternal health, nearly 80 per cent of the 635 maternal deaths reported in 2015-16 were because of preventable causes such as post-partum haemorrhage, sepsis, and anaemia.

Most below 29

Although the total number of deaths are less than the 722 deaths reported in 2013-14 and 645 in 2014-15, what is worrying is that 81 per cent of the women who died were aged below 29 and 85 per cent of them were anaemic, which according to doctors,

Apart from anaemia, deaths were caused by post-partum haemorrhage could have been easily picked up early in the antenatal period and treated.

Apart from anaemia, which is the common factor in all the deaths, the highest number of deaths (150 of 635) was due to post-partum haemorrhage (PPH), a cause largely preventable. According to World Health Organisation (WHO), PPH is "preventable and manageable". While 111 deaths are because of congestive cardiac failure and other cardiovascular diseases, 101 are due to pre-eclampsia and 78 due to sepsis.

Highest in Belagavi

Belagavi district has reported the highest number of 81 deaths and Udupi has reported two deaths, which is the lowest. These figures and many more facts about

maternal deaths in the State have been highlighted in the first of its kind in-depth maternal death analysis done by the Karnataka State Health System Resource Centre.

KSHSRC Executive Director Sadhana S.M. said the analysis was done on the basis of the maternal death line list collected from the districts. "Every case was traced up to the village and primary health centre level," she said.

Pointing out that nearly 70 per cent of these deliveries were handled by trained doctors, Dr. Sadhana said the deaths could have been prevented had they been properly managed during the antenatal period.

Women's panel issues summons to Salman

STAFF REPORTER



Salman Khan

Hence he must represent himself in front of us with an explanation," she said.

Mr. Khan will have to be present at the MSCW office on June 29 at 2 p.m.

On Wednesday, the actor's father, writer Salim Khan, apologised for Salman's remarks.

Mr. Khan had reportedly said that he felt 'like a raped woman' at the end of strenuous film shooting, triggering outrage on social media.

"People tend to follow what their icon does or says.

MIND OUR LANGUAGE / EDITORIAL

Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) - 2016

National Institute of Technology Patna

Phone: +91-612-2678045, Fax: +91-612-2678046

<https://josaa.nic.in, csaboffice@nitp.ac.in>

Attention: NITs / IIEST / IITs / GFTIs Aspirants

Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) 2016 has been constituted by the MHRD to manage and regulate the joint seat allocation for admissions to 92 institutes for the academic year 2016-17. This includes 22 IITs, ISM, 31 NITs, IIEST, 20 IITs and 17 Other-Government Funded Technical Institutes (Other-GFTIs). Admission to all the academic programs offered by these Institutes will be made through a single platform JoSAA 2016.

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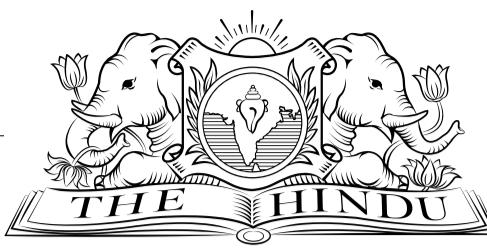
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THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016

The 10-crore rollback

The Finance Ministry has tied itself up in knots on whether a purported target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taxmen was articulated or not. On June 16, it said the Prime Minister had asked tax administrators to bring 10 crore households into the tax net, which would effectively double the number of taxpayers. A day later, the Revenue Secretary denied that a target had been set. But the Ministry issued an official clarification the following day, emphasising that the Prime Minister had only asked the Income Tax Department to widen the tax base and take suitable action against tax-evaders. It is not clear why there is such panic about the number, especially if it was a mere statement of intent. As a target, rough or otherwise, it is an ambitious goal for a country where the direct tax base has grown at a snail's pace over six decades — from six per cent of GDP in 1950-51 to 16.6 per cent in 2013-14. Just four per cent of voters are individual income taxpayers, well short of the government's desired 23 per cent. Given that the Prime Minister had not set a deadline for the target, any fears of taxmen scouring the streets menacingly to widen the tax net are misplaced.

India's tax-to-GDP ratio is far lower than the 21 per cent average of its emerging market peers; its public spending-to-GDP ratio is also the lowest among BRICS nations. The country cannot scale up necessary infrastructure and social spending without widening its tax base. About 85 per cent of the economy is outside the tax net. Even among those who pay taxes, the number of individuals who earn more than Rs.1 crore a year or pay tax in the 30 per cent tax bracket is unrealistically low. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has taken some steps to expand the tax base — replacing the wealth tax with a surcharge on super-high incomes, taxing luxury car sales to build a database of potential evaders, and even bringing advocates into the tax net. But a more proactive strategy is needed to widen the tax base while prioritising public spending on services that all citizens use — such as infrastructure, law and order, health and education — in a way that the earning classes find value from their tax payments. Tackling corruption and developing an effective property tax regime to curb speculation would not only close avenues for tax evasion but also nudge fence-sitting potential taxpayers towards the straight and narrow. Mr. Jaitley had promised that the government would adopt non-intrusive methods and employ information technology to widen the tax base. With several more transactions now requiring PAN card details, an intelligent data-mining exercise could bring more people into the tax net faster. By doing away with the 10-crore target, the Centre has perhaps missed a trick.

Mind our language

Salman Khan may have regretted his remarks in the next breath after uttering his "rape" analogy, or not. His father, Salim Khan, certainly did not hesitate to issue an apology on behalf of his routinely errant superstar son. But regardless of how Salman chooses to close this episode, the storm over the analogy revives the debate on whether India needs a more publicly mediated standard on language. In the publicity-driven media interaction on Saturday on his latest film, *Sultan*, Mr. Khan was trying to convey just how strenuous his training schedule was. He plays a professional wrestler in the film, and explained the physical battering thus: "When I used to walk out of that ring, it used to be like a raped woman walking out." The comment has been interpreted, variously, as evidence of the white noise of patriarchy, his insensitivity, and misogyny. Social media has been preoccupied, prominent activists have condemned Mr. Khan, and the National Commission for Women has asked for an apology. There has also been the counter-argument that our celebrity-obsessed culture is making too much of a possibly stray remark, about making the distinction between words and action, and about exploiting a famous person to spin a story longer than it merits. While there is a case that too much political correctness can be dangerous and limit free speech, in a modern society some metaphors are not fine. The "rape" reference is one of them.

This is not the first time a rape reference has caused outrage. Seven years ago, Rita Bahuguna Joshi, then the president of the Congress's Uttar Pradesh unit, found herself arrested for one such remark. Criticising the Uttar Pradesh government's decision to give only Rs.25,000 to rape victims, she exhorted the women to throw the money at the then Chief Minister, Mayawati, and tell her, "If you get raped, I'll give you one crore [rupees]." Ms. Bahuguna subsequently apologised, and also pleaded that her meaning not be misconstrued since, as a woman, she was only speaking in support of victims. Then, as now, the outrage over the use of the word "rape", whether to casually refer to a physical toll or to imagine the crime being visited upon somebody, was justified. There is not much to be gained by only training all guns on the person misusing the word. It is to articulate in the public sphere the importance of dispensing with old and inappropriate usages that are suggestive of anything other than what rape really is: a particularly abominable criminal act.

The Rajan syndrome

The outrage following Raghuram Rajan's decision to leave the RBI in September reflects the degree to which India's politicians have turned civil servants into note-takers



ASHOK V. DESAI

These are exciting times — and not just for economists. Raghuram Rajan is just governor of the Reserve Bank of India — a satrap sent by the Badshahi of Delhi to rule a colony on the western seashore. It has been doing this for 80 years. Getting rid of a minion, putting another in his place — this game of patronage is being played all the time. There are governors for 29 States and seven Union Territories as well; most of them men and women of little distinction; they are installed in ornate mansions and then removed every once in a while, and no one gives it a thought. This governor, perched in a skyscraper looking out on the Bombay harbour, he has not even been dismissed. All he has said is that he does not want to be reappointed. The entire media have gone crazy about his self-abnegation.

Why the grief?

The other remarkable fact about this incident is the sympathy this man has evoked in the media. Suppose Deepika Padukone declared tomorrow that she was retreating to Madeira to grow camellias; many might like to join her, but I am not sure there would be such lamentation. Mr. Rajan is going to retreat to the shores of Lake Michigan to grow ideas. It is an enviable life for an economist; no one need feel sorry for him. True, Mr. Rajan looks enviably winsome; I do not think anyone else in the government comes anywhere near him. But that is not the reason behind the outbreak of grief; it is that he is by common consensus the best man for the job, and even people who never gave a thought to the exchange rate think that it is a bad idea that he should have been eased out in such an unceremonious manner.

CARTOONSCAPE



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.

Relevance of the Rajya Sabha

The deadlock between both Houses on parliamentary matters is a major setback to India's progress and only shows the leadership of all parties in a bad light. The Rajya Sabha was designed for the purpose of representing the interests of States ("Revisiting the Rajya Sabha's role", June 22). However, all this seems to have been forgotten as it increasingly appears to have become a rehabilitation House. While some members do have the necessary qualifications that will do justice to the role of the Rajya Sabha, others do not measure up. The problem has been exacerbated by the *Kuldip Nayar* judgment which removed the requirement of domicile. It has now been misinterpreted for political expediency. As the recent Rajya Sabha elections show, we now have MPs who are representing a State to which they do not belong. For the Rajya Sabha to be more effective, certain steps need to be taken. All States must be given an equal number of seats. Most importantly, it needs to be seen as a House brimming with talented policymakers.

Akshay Viswanathan,
Thiruvananthapuram

There is no doubt that the Elders have played an important part in the functioning of our democracy. Even if they don't have the power to stop a bill in its tracks, the fact that they do discuss and call for suggestions by itself shows that the system is hale and hearty. Also, given the fact that the composition of political parties varies especially in the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha does help provide the required checks and balances. But a couple of trends cannot be missed. Many parties are now using the Rajya Sabha as a backdoor to get members elected, most of whom will not be able to win a Lok Sabha election. This is something that must be avoided as it

amounts to taking the electorate for granted. Second, people get in from States they are least connected with. Even though we are moving towards a pan-India polity, this poses the question as to what the stand of the 'alien' MP with respect to the new constituency would be and what he or she is going to do for its development. The abuse of Rajya Sabha posts should be stopped, the only comparison today being the way the Governor's post is on the decline. There has to be a mechanism to ensure that qualified people reflecting the diversity of our country are represented in the Rajya Sabha. At best, the Elders can facilitate the smooth functioning of our democracy and be the spokespersons for the marginalised.

Saishankar Swaminathan,
Chennai

The Rajya Sabha is not only a House for second thought but is also a guardian of a State's rights. As it has the role of a watchdog, it must assert itself as a House of correction. Its function is to improve legislation passed by the Lower House and is not one of obstruction.

V.K. Babu Prakash,
Kollam, Kerala

The reforms push

In India, the first reaction to whenever the government announces a new policy shift is always a reactionary one ("Modi fast-tracks reforms with radical change in FDI norms", June 21). With all the liberalised loans doled out to Indian companies and industries, the progress and the results achieved in lifting the economy are scanty and tardy. There is also a question mark over the integrity of loan defaulters who defy systems and make lending banks almost totter. Therefore, there is nothing wrong if FDI is allowed to boost employment and spur industrial growth. Since 2014, there has been a welcome break from

corruption, nepotism and favouritism adopted in the name of reforms.

T.M. Ranganathan,
Srirangam, Tamil Nadu

Only time will tell whether the Narendra Modi government's serial relaxations in foreign direct investment (FDI) limits deserve praise or not. People are not ready to digest that 100 per cent FDI will result in job creation. Why has there been a U-turn on FDI in retail especially when it was the core issue for the BJP not so long ago?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,
Farridabad

The watering down of the "state of the art technology" clause while liberalising FDI in the defence sector seems to be a hasty decision to push defence manufacturing in India. It will keep India dependent on imports to access such technology because there won't be any compulsion now on foreign firms to introduce cutting-edge technology to India and share it with domestic manufacturers. It will also affect the chances of domestic manufacturers accessing such technology without going through the long drawn and complex process of developing it on their own. It will further delay our aim of achieving strategic self-sufficiency in defence manufacturing.

Prateek Yadav,
New Delhi

Elevation of yoga

The lead role the Prime Minister has taken in elevating yoga to international recognition is praiseworthy (June 23). However, rejoicing over this Indian tradition finding acceptance overseas when, back home, we don't keep at it diligently is short-lived pleasure. I hope that most of us take to yoga regularly and reap its purported benefits. It takes discipline and faith to pursue this form of exercise to

give voice to reason.

Mr. Rajan's decision to leave is just one instance of the breakdown of this mechanism of consultation. Admittedly, he has been expressing opinions that do not fall strictly within the purview of monetary policy and can be taken to be critical of government. Free expression too is a part of democratic government. It happens that past governors of the Reserve Bank have been economical in resorting to free expression. Most of them spent their working lives serving ministers silently; by the time they came to Mint Street, most of them had lost the art of free expression, and those who retained it in some measure thought it irrelevant to venture beyond the most conventional and boring statements. The sensation that Mr. Rajan has caused is more a reflection on the way politicians have turned civil servants into slaves. All democracies are governments in the making. In theory, the discretion of those in power is constrained by propriety as much as by law. But there is no foolproof mechanism for drawing the line between discretion and propriety. The conventions in this country are so fragile that propriety is overwhelmed by impunity.

Central bank vs Finance Ministry

The conflict between political discretion and economic circumspection sharpened in the last years of Mr. Rajan's tenure. Politicians in power tend everywhere to be expansionist; they would prefer to spend more and borrow without interest. If they do so without restraint, the country can have inflation which, if not controlled, can turn into hyperinflation. In a world of open economies, excessive spending by governments can also result in payments problems. This is why, in recent decades, better-run countries have freed central banks from finance ministries and given them power to control money supply, influence interest rates and regulate financial markets.

That power was not used in this country when governors were sent from Delhi to the Reserve Bank. They were too subservient to finance ministers. As a result, we had a payments crisis at least once a decade; and we had chronic inflation. When I was taken into the Finance Ministry in 1991, I was shocked to see how much power we had, and how casually we exercised it. We transferred some of the powers to the Reserve Bank and Securities and Exchange Board of India, and tried to exercise self-control in fiscal management. It did not work immediately. Finance ministers were amateurs; they took some years to learn the ropes, by which time they were often defeated or removed and replaced by new ones. But slowly, under the long rule of Manmohan Singh, conventions began to take shape — including induction of outside intellectuals into government. I was the first. Manmohan Singh readily accepted invitations to academia, and knew many academics. So his government had no difficulty in attracting intellectuals into the government. Mr. Rajan was one of them. Manmohan Singh heard him when he went to inaugurate a conference in Neemrana, liked what he saw and heard, and lured Mr. Rajan into government.

Return to nativism

Not surprisingly, no leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party has such rapport with academics and intellectuals. Its leaders believe that knowledge is hidden in ancient Hindu scriptures. More important, they do not believe that knowledge emerges and grows through contention of ideas and testing them against facts. After coming to power, the party's new appointees have tried to replace the long tradition of contention with a new one of indigenous faith. Mr. Rajan is a worshipper of a foreign economic faith. He turned the Reserve Bank into a temple of western-style independent monetary policy. Monetary policy must be retrieved from the heretic, and be brought back into the ideological pantheon. Mr. Rajan would not be handled roughly like Kanhaiya Kumar, but sedition will be dealt with without mercy.

But — what will be the new monetary policy? It is too early to ask that. The *shastra* of monetary policy, like all *shastras*, has been suppressed by agents of the western civilisation. It will take some time to be rediscovered and reinvented. It is not possible at this moment to appoint a monetary mahant. What will be done, however, is to appoint someone with the right faith, who will work in harmony with the holy powers in Delhi. Everyone will remember the victory Arun Jaitley declared in March in the nationalism debate. The monetary policy debate too will be won just as easily, without argument, contention or persuasion.

This is not the first time faith has triumphed. It did so once before, in the 1950s; dissenters were thrown out of the government, and the nation progressed on a planned path — to the famine and payments crisis of 1966. This time, though, the exit will not be so straightforward; the economy is doing too well.

Ashok V. Desai is an itinerant economist who has taught, done research, coordinated projects and helped make policy.

on the banks of the lower riparian villages of the Walayar river that received copious rains, for their water needs. As the vegetative cover was very thick then the animals had no compulsion to stray. But now with human settlements increasing, denuding forest cover on either side of the track, animals are being driven out. Accidents such as the one described in the report, "Knocked down by train, elephant dies" (June 21), can be avoided if the entire stretch is illuminated and train drivers asked to sound the locomotive's horn frequently. If this is not possible, the tracks should be realigned off the lower Walayar river basin or encircling the upper Ettimadai hills and reconnected with the tracks towards Palakkad.

S. Vasudevan,
Chennai

The picture of a dying elephant, with its eye wide open, and lying alongside the railway track is haunting. Even more heartrending was the picture in the inside pages (June 21) of the animal lying with its hind legs trapped in the concrete channel alongside the track. It is sickening that humans think that they alone have the right to live in this world. Development should never be at the cost of nature.

Neelakantan T.K.,
Chennai

Activists are right in saying that the operation to trap the rogue elephant, nicknamed Madukkarai Maharaj, in Coimbatore — and now dead — raises serious questions about conservation efforts ("Trapped 'Maharaj' dies in Anamalai", June 22). There seems to have been no proper application of mind in this case. Perhaps the government should educate foresters on how a similar situation is handled in Thailand and Africa where frequent man-animal encounters occur.

T. Anand Raj,
Chennai

overcome the disorders caused by an increasingly sedentary lifestyle.

Anand Srinivasan,
Bengaluru

While International Yoga Day was observed throughout the world, including Pakistan, it is regrettable that some of our Opposition leaders have painted it as being religious. It is time every one realised that yoga does help in leading a healthy life.

N. Mahadevan,
Chennai

Dangerous game

While there is some substance in accusing the BJP of capitalising on the Kairana incident by giving it a communal colour, the Uttar Pradesh government is equally guilty of its failure to rein in the elements who profited from the plight of those affected (Editorial, June 22). In matters of religion, political parties should remember what Thomas Fuller said — "Religion is the best armour, but the worst cloak".

R. Badrinarayanan,
Bengaluru

In what appears to be a no-holds-barred campaign to communalise and polarise the atmosphere in Uttar Pradesh, there are now allegations of some political parties roping in the local media to spread disharmony. With the designs of the ruling party at the Centre being so plain, one wonders who is there to check the nation's drift in yet another communalised electoral campaign.

M.A. Siraj,
Bengaluru

Jumbo travails

I have travelled frequently on the Podanur-Madukkarai-Ettimadai-Walayar sector by train for the past half a century on my way to Kerala. In the 1970s one could occasionally sight, from distances afar, especially at dawn, elephant herds converging

DIPLOMATIC LICENCE**Finding the centre**

SUHASINI HAIDER
A few days after India and the Soviet Union signed the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in August 1971, Foreign Minister Swaran Singh flew to Washington to an icy reception. In his recently released memoirs, *A Life in Diplomacy*, former Foreign Secretary M.K. Rasgotra has a full account of Swaran Singh's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Will Rogers, where he wasn't even offered a cup of tea. Instead, the host railed on about the how the treaty made India's policy of non-alignment look like a "sham". Unruffled, the minister replied that he didn't see any need for the U.S. to be upset. In fact, he said, "My Prime Minister (Indira Gandhi) has authorised me to sign an identical treaty with your government."

The idea may have seemed laughable, and certainly the U.S. didn't accept the offer, but the anecdote has remarkable similarities to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's own task this month, in reverse order. Fresh from his visit to Washington, where the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) on defence has been finalised, and India declared the U.S.'s major defence partner, Mr. Modi must fly to Tashkent to finalise documents for India's accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a "political, economic and military alliance" spearheaded by Russia and China. While non-alignment, a term that now invites raised eyebrows and some mirth in South Block, has yet to find a mention in the Prime Minister's speeches, it may still be a necessity in his actions, especially with India's desired Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership hanging in the balance.

Shifting sands of alliances

Many assume that India's push for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), formed in Belgrade in 1961, came as a result of its disillusionment with the U.S., China, and colonial powers, but actually, non-alignment was spelt out a year before independent India's first bilateral relations were declared. In a radio broadcast in September 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru said India's foreign policy would rest on eight pillars: non-alignment with "power groups" was the third.

India's break with the U.S. came in 1951 when Prime Minister Nehru refused to attend a peace conference in San Francisco hosted by U.S. President Harry Truman after calling the war reparations for Japan too meagre. The strain grew from there as India refused an alliance, possibly because of its own attempts at better ties with China and the Soviet Union, which were themselves at loggerheads at the time.

History is indeed strange, former enemies became the best allies, and India today stands once again in a place somewhere in the middle (albeit more to the right than the left). It has close defence exchanges like Operation Malabar with the U.S. and Japan on one side, and on the other, joining a conference that has Russia and China at the helm. The alliance with the U.S. and Japan is yet to be spelt out, but it is clear from the Indo-U.S. joint vision statement of 2015 that Mr. Modi now envisages closer military cooperation with the U.S., and as a corollary its allies, both in the seas and on its military bases, airspace and cyber centres as well. Of particular importance will be the lines in the joint vision statement for Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean region, signed by Mr. Modi and President Obama last year, on "ensuring freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region, especially in the South China Sea".

Clashing terms of engagement

It is worthwhile to see what SCO membership for India entails. The 2001 declaration on the establishment of the SCO clearly states that its aim is "jointly preserving and safeguarding regional peace, security and stability; and establishing a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order". Analysts have always believed that the reference to the "new order" juxtaposes the Eurasian SCO as a counterpoint to the transatlantic North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. It was further spelt out vividly at the Astana SCO summit declaration in 2005, a summit in which India, Pakistan and Iran were admitted as observer countries.

At Astana the members formulated joint mechanisms for regional security, joint planning and conduct of anti-terror activities, and jointly contributing to security issues "on land, at sea, in air space and in outer space". The SCO also has a formulation on 'Asia Pacific', with members making a declaration "against fault lines appearing both in the Asia Pacific region and in its separate constituent parts".

Clearly, adherence to the terms spelt out in both the western and eastern alliances would be absurd, as they could conceivably see the Indian Navy in joint patrol with the U.S. and its allies, challenging China in the South China Sea, even as it cooperates with China and Russia to counter U.S.-backed forces across the "fault lines"! Equally strange is the possible vision of the future this brings: one of India discussing nuclear safety and non-proliferation on an equal footing with known proliferator Pakistan at the NSG, and also sharing counter-terror operations with it as part of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).

In this scenario, even NAM, with its inherent confusion and often "lip service-only commitment" to neutrality, isn't fraught with as much contradiction, and is a group that India has leadership of. The fact that the next host of the NAM summit, Venezuela, hasn't been able to declare a date for it also gives the government some time to consider Mr. Modi's position on attending it, which he has not indicated so far.

At her annual press conference a few days ago, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said that non-alignment is "India's heritage". Given the stormy waters and multiple criss-crossing alignments India now envisions, it may be a safer shore for India's future as well.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES**The Hindu.**

(dated June 23, 1966)

Delicensing of more industries

The Union Government hopes to come out in the next few weeks with a second list of industries which would be delicensed, in addition to the eleven industries already delicensed, said Mr. D. Sanjivayya, Union Minister for Industry, here [Madras] to-day [June 22], while inaugurating the 38th Annual General Meeting of the Andhra Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sanjivayya also said that he had asked his Ministry to examine the possibility of instituting awards for our scientists and technologists who invent processes that would replace imports. The Union Minister departed from the text of his

prepared speech to make these two announcements. He regretted that the country's determination to achieve import substitution following suspension of western aid during the Indo-Pakistan conflict last year had now given place to complacency.

One lakh teachers go on strike

The first day-to-day [June 22] of the "indefinite strike" launched by the 1.30 lakh teachers employed in about 11,000 schools in Kerala, went off peacefully, without any incident anywhere. According to reports available, most of the recognised (unaided) schools in the State, functioned normally, and there was no obstruction to the work in these schools.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

>>The graphic - "Three years on Mint Road" – that accompanied "Rajan's successor to be named soon" (June 19, 2016), referred to a 25 bps repo rate cut to 7.25% corresponding to March 4, 2015. It is actually 7.5%. Corresponding to September 29, 2015, the graphic showed a 25 bps repo rate cut. It should have been 50 bps.

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PERSPECTIVE**Limits of the big freeze**

Why cordial relations between Russia and the West are in the interest of everyone



P.S. RAGHAVAN

In the preface to his just-published novel *2017 War with Russia*, recently-retired North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) General Sir Richard Shirreff describes his depiction of a Russia-NATO war as not fiction, but "fact-based prediction". He quotes a U.S. Army Chief's testimony to the Senate that Russia's nuclear capability poses an "existential threat" to America.

On the other side, Russian President Vladimir Putin last month threatened retaliation against U.S. missile defence system deployments in Romania and Poland.

Such sabre-rattling reminds us that even as a challenge to post-Cold War "unipolarity" is being mounted in the east, an ongoing game in the west remains in play.

As nature abhors a vacuum, so geopolitics abhors "unipolarity". Post-Cold War Europe sought to emerge from the American shadow into an independent global personality. In anticipation of its forthcoming expansion, the European Union (EU) unveiled an ambitious agenda in 2000, to make EU "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world" by 2010. Reinforcing this "Lisbon Agenda" was a Common Security and Defence Policy, envisaging *inter alia* an autonomous EU military force to respond to international crises beyond Europe's borders. Europe thus declared its ambition to become a dominant global power by 2010.

The rise of Putin

The European resurgence coincided with the rise of Mr. Putin in Russia, with his declared goal of restoring Russia's political, economic and military strength.

European and Russian aspirations were compatible. Russia needed European technologies and investment. Europe needed cheap Russian gas and could use Russia's technical manpower. A broad-based mutually beneficial Russia-Europe engagement appeared in prospect.

These first challenges to "unipolarity" collided with U.S. neo-conservatism, which aimed to scotch any threat to U.S. global power. In 2002-03, the US conceded NATO's (and the U.S.) primacy in its defence and security policy. The U.S. invasion of Iraq divided EU politically even before it expanded in 2004. The Eurozone crisis then created new fault lines. The EU formally buried the Lisbon Agenda in 2010.

Mr. Putin restored stability and growth in Russia but encountered headwinds in the external environment. Russia saw NATO's eastward expansion and missile defence systems in Central Eu-



DRAWBRIDGE: "Europe has to be the catalyst for this change, since most action is in Europe which also bears the brunt of its consequences." Picture shows Vladimir Putin at the Russian Geographical Society. — FILE PHOTO: AFP

rope as an American drive to box it in. The democratic "colour revolutions" in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan — in which Western non-governmental organisations and foreign mercenaries were allegedly active — were similarly viewed.

Russia was particularly incensed when NATO moved (in 2008) to offer membership to Georgia and Ukraine: NATO in the Black Sea and on the fringe of the Caucasus threatened its national security and strategic ambitions. Mr. Putin's military response to Georgian operations in South Ossetia (2008) signalled that Russia was prepared to use force to protect its vital interests.

Tensions peaked with the Ukraine crisis in 2014. Russia saw a "foreign hand" in the unseating of the Ukrainian government. Fearing a threat to its naval fleet in Crimea and to its vulnerable Black Sea coastline, Russia acted swiftly. Crimea "accessed" to Russia after a hastily organised referendum. Demands for independence then arose in two regions in Eastern Ukraine, which degenerated into fighting between the separatists and the Ukrainian army.

U.S. and EU sanctions for "annexa-

" of Crimea included Russia's international isolation and restrictions on finance and technology transfers. Russia retaliated with an embargo on agro-product imports from Europe.

A propaganda war continues. Accusations of Russian sponsorship of separatism are countered by allegations of Western manipulation of Ukraine's actions. Russia accuses the U.S. of arm-twisting the Europeans to sustain tensions; a sanctions-induced collapse of the Russian economy is a Western refrain.

The edge of sanctions has blunted, as technology and finance, as well as European agro-products found alternative channels to Russia. The International Monetary Fund predicts restoration of Russian growth in 2017. A fragile ceasefire prevails in Eastern Ukraine. Russia's "isolation" has been diluted by U.S.-Russia collaboration on Iran and Syria.

However, Russia-NATO relations remain tense and could have far-reaching implications for Asia and Europe.

Implications for India

For India, political, defence and strategic relations with Russia retain great importance. We do not want Cold War-like pressures to curtail this relationship as the price for strengthening another. Some areas of India-Russia relations cannot yet be substituted by other relationships. Our Russian collaboration strengthens our leverage with other partners.

Of wider concern is the recent intensification of Russia-China cooperation. Until lately, a history of strategic rivalry ensured that, notwithstanding flourishing trade, Russia calibrated its cooperation in strategic sectors. This reserve progressively weakened as tensions with the West increased and China's political and economic support (particularly as a permanent member of the UN Security Council) acquired critical importance. Such support obviously comes at a price: reports of recent Russian military transfers to China are not coincidental.

In a single-minded drive to cut Russia down to size, the full implications of its intimate Chinese embrace appear to be underestimated. The thesis that historical rivalries (and Russia's unwillingness to be a junior partner) will limit Russia-China bonds may not have permanent validity as ground realities transform. Asia and Europe should worry about the geopolitical impact of a Russia-China strategic alliance, but so should the sole superpower: in seeking to vanquish a waning superpower, it may be accelerating the rise of another.

A Russia-West thaw is therefore clearly in the interest of the international community.

For a European nudge

Europe has to be the catalyst for this change, since most action is in Europe which also bears the brunt of its consequences. During the Cold War, Europe played a moderating role in East-West tensions. Today, an expanded Europe has economic disparities between north and south and ideological divergences between east and west.

In the EU's present course, the pace has been set by its eastern and northern members. Moderating voices have been drowned in the quest for EU unity. A coherent approach is needed in the long-term interests of its entire membership. The transformation of eastern Europe could be pursued in a calibrated manner, minimising confrontation and accommodating interests of Europe and Russia.

The point is not to "legitimise" Russia's "annexation" of Crimea, but that the present confrontational approach is not achieving its purpose and its wider consequences are unpalatable.

There are signs of a pragmatic approach. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (strongly endorsed recently by Germany's Foreign Minister) has advocated an independent European position on Russia. These sentiments are echoed in many European political and business circles.

This approach requires statesmanship from leaders of Europe, the U.S. and Russia. Leaders of countries like India and Japan could use their considerable influence to nudge them in this direction.

P.S. Raghavan is a former diplomat who was Ambassador of India to Russia —2014-16. The views expressed here are personal.

Can we have some silence, please?

Noise is the new garbage in our life. What we urgently need is a meditative state for our society



SUNDAR SARUKKAI

Sound has taken over our lives in unimaginable and unwelcome ways. If there is a marker of contemporary public life in India, it is the predominance of noise and a loss of silence. It is almost as if we believe that it is only through making noise, and being surrounded by it, that we know we are alive.

Public space in India should come with a statutory warning: harmful to your ears and hence, harmful to your peace of mind. Driving on the roads is as much about the constant sound from all species of horns. Travelling in trains has now become a mental extension of *ménage à trois*. We are forced to listen to other people's private conversations, their music preferences and movie tracks. On a recent train trip to Chennai, I was assaulted by multiple sound fronts: an old man in front of me playing Vedic chants on his mobile, a man in my row loudly discussing what felt were illegal business practices, a girl behind me on the phone given to sudden and loud bursts of giggles, and a woman nearby who loudly played Sai Baba bhajans perhaps in the hope that her co-passengers too would share in her ecstasy. As if this cacophony was not enough, two small children created havoc running around and screaming at the top of their not-so-tiny voices, with their parents watching with an indulgent smile. None of these people thought that there was something unwelcome in this public display of their private preferences.

Only in India?

When I see this, I am tempted to say 'Only in India'. But perhaps we are not fully to blame. There is something within the intrinsic nature of sound that makes it essentially about the freedom to spread without constraint. But there must be something peculiarly 'us' in this tendency to be surrounded by noise.

For instance, when I visit some houses, the soundscape I am in is this: the TV is playing loud film songs, there is a CD player belting out bhajans in the next room, there is the sound of guns



ILLUSTRATION: SATWIK GADE

and bombs going off in the computer game in another room, and then all of us trying to conduct a conversation above these simultaneous sonic blasts.

After watching IPL matches on TV, I finally got to see one live — the recent final in Bengaluru. The ground was lush, smothered under bright lights. But it was the sound which greeted me when I entered the stadium. Loud, thumping music reverberated all around and it seemed as if the stadium was an open-air pub. I thought the music would stop once the match began. Alas, the final was really about music and dancing in the stands; the cricket was actually incidental. Between balls and between overs there was loud, rhythmic music, and loud compere screaming into the mike: "Are you having fun?"

Fun, somehow, seemed to be directly proportional to the noise. We all shouted back "Yes" and then were told to whistle, to make odd noises, and wave

Aggressively promoting oneself seems to be the new mantra for survival in our society and silence mitigates this 'virtue'

our flags. We did all that like obedient monkeys. Any time the crowd was comparatively silent, there was the anxious scream — "Are you having fun?" — followed by the thundering noise of screams and snippets of songs. We were as scared as the compere that we were perhaps not having fun. Having paid substantially for the tickets, we would not be denied our 'fun'.

Except that I suspect most of us had little clue about what fun was. Fun had been reduced to some loud beats, flashing lights, voyeuristic glances at cheerleaders, and not sitting in silence. There was nothing spontaneous about this fun.

Silence is the price we pay for this immersion in noise. Today silence has negative connotations. Being silent is seen as being in a state of depression or being anti-social. Silence is used as a form of punishment, whether in the school or at home. Aggressively promoting oneself seems to be the new mantra for survival in our society and silence mitigates this 'virtue'.

If meditation is the search for silence within the individual, what we urgently need is a meditative state for our society. And the first step towards this is to perhaps speak softly and think gently — at least in the public domain.

Sundar Sarukkai is a philosopher based in Bengaluru.

CM YK ND-ND

FROM PAGE ONE**Jaitley defends CEA after Swamy's salvo**

He said the premise of the question was incorrect and that he had categorically spoken on this subject when the comments against the RBI Governor were made. "Even the party president had specifically stated that the party does not agree with that comment which was made."

In response to another question on whether the real target of Dr. Swamy's shadow attacks was in fact the Finance Minister, rather than the two economists, IT and Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, also present at the Cabinet briefing, replied: "Integrity of Shri Arun Jaitley is impeccable... His transparency and integrity is unquestionable."

Mr. Prasad also added that Mr. Jaitley is known to the party's members since his college days.



Arvind Subramanian

Separately, a top Finance Ministry official told *The Hindu* that the government had concluded that there was no substance in Dr. Swamy's attacks against the Chief Economic Adviser. "I have read the CEA's testimony to the U.S. Congress and it is okay," the official said.

He said that the government had taken a decision to defend the CEA as he was "a part of the system".

Madras, Bombay HCs to reflect city names

A view of Madras High Court buildings. — FILE PHOTO: V. GANESAN

"We had earlier thought that vesting the President of India with the powers to change the names of the High Courts through an executive order would simplify matters, but that did not seem feasible. Therefore, in the last six months, we have drafted a Bill that changes the name of these two High Courts," the Ministry source said.

"The West Bengal government has asked for a name change but the honourable Calcutta High Court has not responded to our letters yet. We have been told that it could be discussed at a full court meeting after the vacation," an official said.

More courts

The matter is not expected to end with the three. With the change in the official spelling of 'Odisha' from 'Orissa', there have been demands that the State's High Court too

change its name. It still goes by the old spelling.

Biju Janata Dal MP Bhadrabhu Mahtab told *The Hindu* that he had written to Union Law Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda seeking change in the spelling.

"I had been informed that the government was going to go in for a remedy that may require only an executive action rather than a Bill to effect the change in the names of High Courts. However, now it seems it will be on a case-to-case basis through Bills. We hope that the government looks at our case as well," he said.

The government is also waiting for the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments to sort out the relocation of the High Court.

"As of now, it is the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and we are waiting for further word from both the governments," a Law Ministry official said.

Anantnag sees 34 per cent vote amid boycott call**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

SRINAGAR: Anantnag recorded a 33.84 per cent turnout for the by-elections on Wednesday, up by five per cent compared to the 2014 Assembly polls, as women came out in large numbers. Eight candidates, including Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, National Conference's Iftikhar Misger and Congress's Hilal Shah, are in the fray.

Voting started on a slow note. Around noon, several booths such as Rainipora, Seepan and Munwirid witnessed brisk polling. "We face hardships on the development front. We do not want to lag behind on the development agenda," said Rashid Ahmad, a voter.

Hoping for change

A large number of women voters were seen outside booths such as Muniwar. "We are hopeful of change this time. Our vote is for the one who will safeguard J&K's special status. This is not a vote against any ideology," said Shabista Jan, a first-time voter. Of the 23,801 votes polled till 3 p.m., 10,853 votes were cast by women.

However, Anantnag town remained aloof from the voting. There were also clashes between security forces and protesters in the town's Cheeni Chowk area.

This is part of the govern-

Priyanka takes a dig at ED for sending notice

Priyanka Vadra

of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) seeking certain financial statements and other documents, official sources said. — PTI

India seeks to purchase patrol drones from U.S.

WASHINGTON: India has sent a letter of request (LoR) to the U.S. seeking to purchase patrol drones for protection of its maritime assets in the Indian Ocean, sources said.

The LoR sent by New Delhi last week comes less than a fortnight after India was inducted into Missile Technology Control Regime and recognised by the U.S. as a "major defence partner" after the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Barack Obama earlier this month.

This is part of the govern-

ment's effort to fast-track its goal to secure the country's maritime assets, particularly in the Indian Ocean and detect any untoward intrusion like Mumbai terrorist attack.

The letter seeks purchase of state-of-the-art multi-mission maritime patrol Predator Guardian Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) from General Atomics, sources said. It provides high-altitude wide area view and has long endurance maritime ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) capability. — PTI

This is part of the govern-

ment leader told *The Hindu* that on June 17 Mr. Kumar addressed a meeting under the banner 'From JP to VP (Singh)' at the Constitution Club here.

"Those who came included those who had been part of the JP movement, had been jailed during the Emergency, and worked under former Prime Ministers Charan Singh, V.P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar," he said.

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ed leader told *The*

For retiring soldiers, it's darkness at noon

Young and jobless soon, with Army's skill courses nixed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Retirement plans of thousands of jawans have been disrupted by a government decision to cancel all resettlement courses that prepare them for a second career after leaving military service.

There is widespread resentment in the ranks over the sweeping decision taken in the recent weeks. Many soldiers feel the decision was taken without considering the difficulties they will go through on leaving the military, most of them in their youth, after completing just 20 years of working life.

"Resettlement courses will be restarted after making sure there are no irregularities. The Defence Ministry has asked to ascertain whether these courses fit into the criteria of the Ministry of Skill Development," a senior Defence Ministry official told *The Hindu*.

NSQF compliant

After April 2016, all such courses should be compliant with the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) of the Ministry, he said. "It was also found that many of these courses and institutes are fraud or do not exist. This will not benefit the jawans. So they will be restarted as soon as they are checked," the official said.

The last six months to a year of his active military life can be used by a soldier to attend a resettlement course that will give him a qualification to pick up a civilian job. During this period, he is paid his salary and provided the course free of cost.

The Ministry explanation for the postponement of the course has not impressed the other ranks of the military.



TOUGH ROAD AHEAD: The now-withdrawn resettlement courses used to equip jawans for a civilian job.— FILE PHOTO: NISSAR AHMAD

"Why have they postponed all courses? There are courses that are already compliant with the Skill Development Ministry guidelines, many of the institutes are approved by the NSDC [National Skill Development Corporation]," one of the affected soldiers said.

According to those in the know, the DGR (The Directorate-General of Resettlement) in the MoD that assists retiring service personnel with courses for starting a second career, approves resettlement course programme once every two years.

Currently, such approved resettlement course programme 2015-17 is under progress.

Revamp likely

Meanwhile, the Central government has asked the DGR to redesign courses as per the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). Sources claim that the Ministry of Defence had agreed to conduct the courses in

The sudden move to postpone all courses indefinitely meant for jawans came after reports emerged in media last month about CBI investigation into alleged irregularities in DGR.

"We are not saying that all courses were clean. Of course, there was corruption and misuse. However, there are several institutes that are reputed, inspected and verified by the DGR and others. Why has the government taken the easiest route, of just cancelling all the courses?" one retiring soldier said.

The question is whether the government realises the inconvenience caused to thousands of retiring soldiers, they say. Thousands of them have moved families back home, and were to start the courses. In the way of the government decisions, they will all now go back to their units.

Akalis bank on SYL canal issue

VIKAS VASUDEVA

NEW DELHI: The Akalis have decided to project the emotive Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue to win the support of the people in the run-up to the Punjab Assembly elections due early next year.

In the past few days, many panchayats of Punjab passed resolutions against sharing the water of the SYL canal. Following this, Akali MLAs or Assembly constituency in-charges have started submitting these resolutions to the President and the Prime Minister, through the district administration.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)-BJP combine government in Punjab is fighting strong anti-incumbency and after facing flak over the drug menace in the State, highlighted by *Udta Punjab*, the Akalis hope to bounce back by playing the SYL card.

Recently 889 resolutions against sharing SYL water were handed over by Akali leaders to the Jalandhar dep-



POLL-TIME UPSURGE: Of late, hundreds of resolutions have been passed by many panchayats of Punjab against the sharing of water of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal.— FILE PHOTO: S. SUBRAMANIAM

uty commissioner. In Nawanshahr as well, 645 such resolutions were submitted to the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM). "Farmers are our first priority; we are ready for all sacrifices to safeguard Punjab's rights. The State has no water to spare," said a recent tweet from SAD's official twitter handle.

The Punjab Congress, on its part, has questioned Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal's sincerity in solving the SYL issue.

Congress president Capt. Amarinder Singh on Wednesday accused Mr. Badal of trying to politicise the issue to hide his government's failures.

"Getting the resolutions passed in various panchayats

across the State will hardly serve any purpose. This is a lame attempt by Mr. Badal to cover up his responsibility in weakening Punjab's case in the Supreme Court", he said.

New tribunal

He said Punjab must insist on setting up a fresh tribunal that will look into the actual availability of water right now, before a final decision is taken. "I am sure he [Mr. Badal] is planning to enact some political drama ahead of the elections", said Capt. Amarinder.

The SYL issue came to the fore three months ago after the Haryana government filed a petition in the Supreme Court. It sought an early hearing on the presidential reference in the case, pending for the last 12 years. The Punjab Assembly passed a Bill on March 10 to return the 5,376 acres of land acquired for the canal to the owners.

The Bill, however, is still awaiting Governor Kapten Singh Solanki's assent.

Two die in crude bomb blast in Bardhaman

STAFF REPORTER

KOLKATA: Two persons died in a bomb blast in the Ketugram area of Bardhaman district in the early hours of Wednesday.

The incident took place at a paddy field in the Chechuri gram panchayat where the two persons, reportedly Trinamool Congress cadres, were making crude bombs.

"We are investigating the matter. So far there has been no arrest," the Superintendent of Police of Bardhaman, Kunal Agarwal, told *The Hindu*. Locals identified the Trinamool workers as Babu Majhi and Gulam Mehbub.

Tension has been brewing after the local Trinamool leadership got involved in a faction feud with their counterparts in the Burwan area of Murshidabad. The feud began over a contract for the construction of a check dam on the Kulea. "Both sides were preparing for a clash and hence were making bombs," the people alleged.

Trinamool district president and Minister Swapan Debnath said he was not aware of the incident.

Aveek Sarkar quits as ABP Group Editor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The Group Editor of *Anandabazar Patrika* (ABP), Aveek Sarkar, resigned on Wednesday. Anirban Chattopadhyay, who was in charge of the ABP's editorial pages, has taken over as the new Editor of the Bengali daily, which has a circulation of about 1.5 million.

Mr. Sarkar's resignation has surprised the media fraternity in Kolkata. R. Rajagopal is the new Editor of the Kolkata-based English daily, *The Telegraph*.

Mehbooba may free stone-throwers

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR: The government is considering amnesty for stone-throwers, who are ready to shun violence, before Eid in the Kashmir Valley.

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said she has directed the State Home Department "to prepare the list of misguided youths who have been involved in various cases of violence since 2008 and were subsequently booked under criminal charges by the J&K Police."

"My government will study these cases. We are contemplating an amnesty scheme for those youths who are willing to shun the path of violence and lead normal lives," Ms. Mufti told the Assembly.

She said many of these youths, who are languishing



RECURRING EXCHANGES: Protesters throwing stones at policemen in Srinagar. In 2015 alone, nearly 800 youths were arrested in the Valley. — FILE PHOTO: AP

in jails, "will be set free before Eid and the remaining cases will also be considered on humanitarian grounds".

"Unlike previous govern-

ments, it is not our hobby to jail people but sometimes certain harsh steps are necessitated to prevent law and order problems," she added.

'We are planning an amnesty scheme for youths who are willing to shun the path of violence'

Around 800 youths have been arrested in the Valley in 2015, of which 300 belong to Srinagar only.

The Chief Minister announced shifting of central jails out of the Srinagar and Jammu cities.

Opposition National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah claimed that no FIR was registered against 22 people in Jammu who vandalised public property after a sacrilegious act in a temple.

"Compared to it, our youth in Srinagar wave ISIS flags or pelt stones, and they are booked. They don't vandalise public property."



INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

(Ministry of Shipping, Government of India)
Head Office : A-13, Sector-1, Noida-201301
Phone : 0128-2544936 & 2521724, Fax : 0128-2517764
www.iwai.nic.in

Engagement of one position each of Chartered Accountant cum Company Secretary and Chartered Accountant on contractual basis for one year

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India invites applications from eligible candidates for engagement of one position each of Chartered Accountant cum Company Secretary and Chartered Accountant in the Inland Waterways Authority of India at its Head Office, Noida (U.P.) on purely contractual basis. The last date for receipt of applications is 08.07.2016. For further details, please visit IWAI Website www.iwai.nic.in.

SECRETARY



NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

S.No. 1. Name of work with its location Comprehensive AMC of Digital electronic Exchange installed at DRM Office, for three years. App. Cost of the work (In Rs.) : ₹ 11,42,100/- only. Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055. Tender Document Fee (In Rs.) : ₹ 2000 only. Earnest Money to be deposited (In Rs.) ₹ 22,850/- only. Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender. Tender submission date & time - 27.07.2016 up to 15.00 hrs. & Opening date and time of tender-27.07.2016 at 15.30 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the N.Rly. website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in & Notice Board at S&T Branch, 3rd Floor, Annex-I, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. Tender No. 558-Sig/16/Tele/ AMC/512/2016-17 Dated: 20.06.2016

19/10/2016

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

PWD CENTRAL WORKS DIVISION, SANGRUR AT PATIALA (PUNJAB)

Notice Inviting Proposal from Ministry's empanelled consultant category 1(B).

Dated: 20.06.2016

MORT&H intends to take up the Appointment of Technical Consultant for preparation of Feasibility Study and Detailed Project Report for the Following Roads in the State of Punjab on BOT/EPC/Hybrid Annuity Mode in the State of Punjab.

1. Punjab/Haryana border to Moonak – Jakhal – Budhlada – Bhikhi road NH- 148 B section from Km. 247.150 to 287.710 in the State of Punjab.	Approx length 40.56 Kms.
Total:	Approx 40.56 Kms.
The details of the roads are as follows:	
S. No:	State:
1.	Punjab: Punjab/Haryana border to Moonak – Jakhal – Budhlada – Bhikhi road NH- 148 B section from Km. 247.150 to 287.710 in the State of Punjab
	Approx. Length (Kms)
1.	40.56
	Period of Assignment.
1.	2 Months for feasibility study and 1 month for obtaining project related clearances total 3 months
	Total 40.56

2. Proposals are hereby invited from Consultants empanelled under category 1(B) by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for preparation of Feasibility Study and Detailed Project Report for the following roads in the State of Punjab on BOT/EPC/HYBRID ANNUITY Mode is available on line on e-tender portal of MORT&H <https://morteproc.in> from 21.06.2016 at 11:00 hrs to 20.07.2016 at 16.00 hrs. IST.

3.	Punjab/Haryana border to Moonak – Jakhal – Budhlada – Bhikhi road NH- 148 B section from Km. 247.150 to 287.710 in the State of Punjab.	Approx length 40.56 Kms.
	Total: Approx 40.56 Kms.	
3.	The fee for the document amounting to Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft favouring Pay & Accounts Officer, MORT&H and payable at Chandigarh/ Executive Engineer, Central Works Division, PWD, B&R Branch, Sangrur at Patiala (Punjab) and payable at Patiala must be furnished a separate envelop while submitting the proposal.	

4. Bid must be submitted online at e-tender portal of MORT&H <https://morteproc.in> or before 20.07.2016 (upto 16:00hrs IST)

Executive Engineer,
Central Works Division,
Pb. PWD, B&R Branch, Sangrur at Patiala.

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION, FORECASTING AND ASSESSMENT COUNCIL (TIFAC)

An autonomous body under Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, New Delhi

Invitation for Submission of Information from Technology Solution Providers for preparing databank on technological classification of Municipal Solid Waste Management options

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission of Govt. of India, TIFAC along with IIAE on behalf of Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and Department of Science & Technology (DST) intends to develop a technology classification to provide guidance to the States regarding selection and use of appropriate technology alternatives for solid waste management. Accordingly, information is sought from companies / vendors / solution providers for providing solutions on existing technologies in an online questionnaire to develop web friendly technology databank and technology classification of MSW management options.

For submission of information online in questionnaire form you may please visit www.tifac.org.in or directly go to the link: <https://goo.gl/3Uavtc>

Please note that this may not be treated as tender for procurement / installation.

For any queries please contact: tifacstudy2016@gmail.com Hard

D-Day for Britain as leave fears loom

PM David Cameron says nobody knows what's next; 'Leave' campaigner Boris Johnson slams rivals over 'Project Fear'

PARTHIVI MENON

LONDON: With the last big debate of the European referendum held at the Wembley stadium on Tuesday night over, and the arguments of both the 'Remain' and 'Leave' sides exhausted, the field is open to public opinion polls, prediction markets and informed guessing in the countdown to the referendum to be held on Thursday.

After a bruising campaign with both sides guilty of making misleading claims, and which saw a surge in support for the 'Leave' campaign in recent weeks, opinion polls now suggest the two sides are very close.

What U.K. Thinks, run by NatCen Social Research, Britain's leading independent social research agency, has given 'Remain' a lead of 51-49, based on a summation of the six most recent polls of voting intentions. According to a Bloomberg poll tracker, 'Leave' has a less than a percentage point advantage.

Economic shock

Prime Minister David Cameron conducted a spate of last-minute interviews to get his pro-EU message to voters before polls open. "Nobody knows what is going to happen," he told *The Financial Times*. "Britain will not want to go through this again."

Hundreds of business leaders, including Virgin boss Richard Branson, and U.S. media mogul Michael Bloomberg published a warning in *The Times* newspaper that Britain leaving the EU could cause an "economic shock". 'Leave' campaigner Boris Johnson accused 'Remain' rivals of running a 'Project fear' by warning that leaving would damage Britain's economy.

Bookmakers are more bullish on 'Remain'. The Financial Times reports that bookmakers William Hill gave a 'Remain' vote an 81 per cent chance, although it must be noted that bookmakers also make their predictions based on opinion surveys.

Then there is the informed guessing based on past and present voting knowledge. 'Leave' voters comprise older Britons who are more likely to vote than young voters who are pro-'Remain'. A low turnout will favour 'Leave' and a high turnout 'Remain'. Scotland and Northern Ireland will vote 'Remain' whereas middle England will vote 'Leave'. London will vote overwhelmingly in favour of 'Remain' because of its multicultural composition.

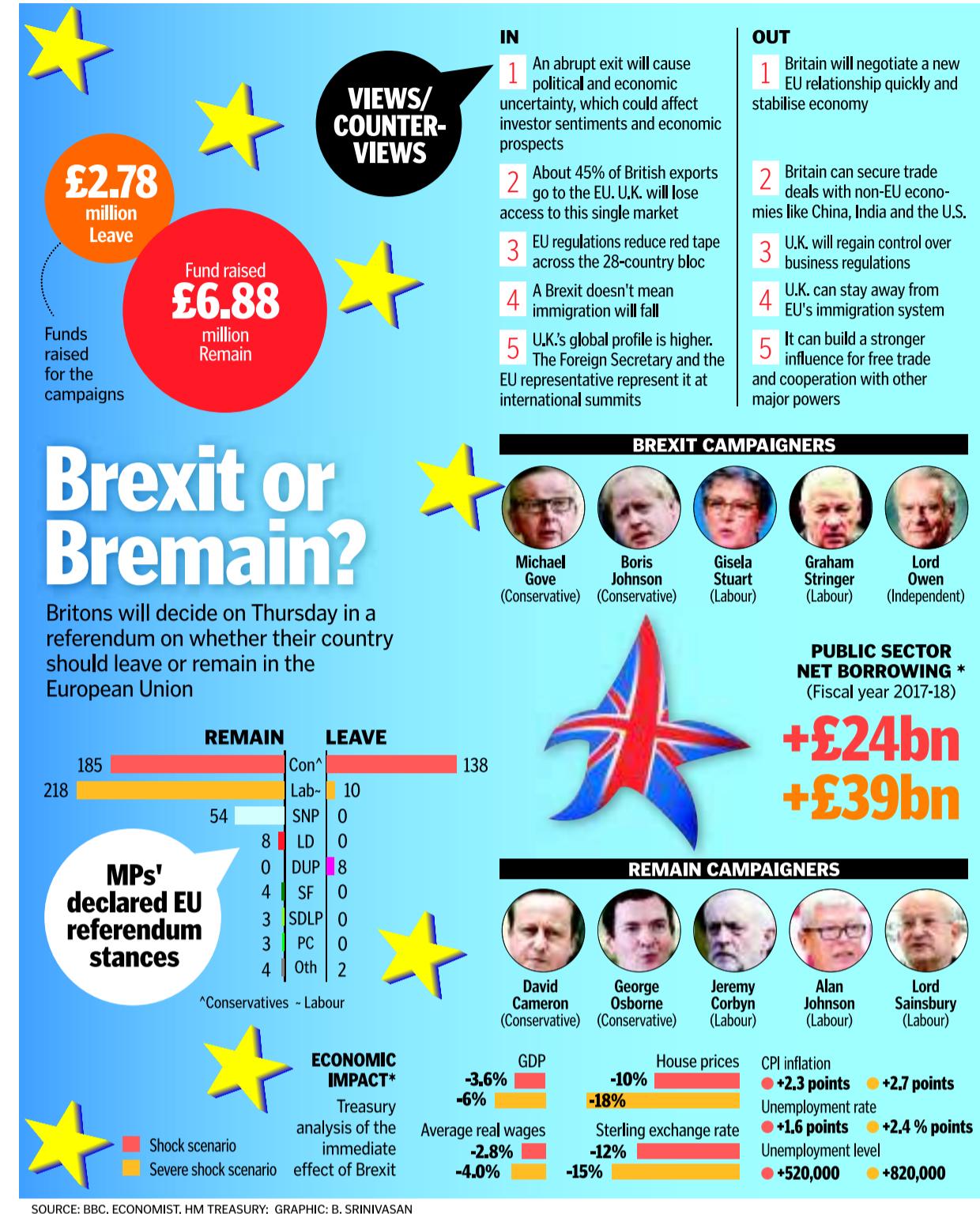
Media support

The big media have spoken their minds, as have celebrities. *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Observer*, *The Mail on Sunday* and *The Sunday Telegraph* have editorially supported 'Remain', while *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Daily Mail*, and the tabloid *The Sun* support 'Leave'. If the Scottish referendum of 2014 is any guide, then 'Remain' will carry the day. In Scotland, a last-minute shift by the undecided voter towards 'Stay' (staying in the U.K.) tilted the scales, despite a robust grassroots campaign run by the 'Leave' side.

Undecided voters prefer to be risk-averse. The broadly felt antipathy towards the EU institutions may be eclipsed in the final count by the fear of change, especially given the predictions of doom that the 'Remain' camp has been making.

The one view that all are agreed upon is that should the 'Leave' side triumph, it will be a watershed in Britain's political life.

(With inputs from AFP)



Hasina vows 'zero tolerance' to extremism

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

HAROON HABIB

DHAKA: Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday re-affirmed the country's 'zero tolerance approach' to terrorism.

"Bangladesh will do everything necessary to fight the twin demons — terrorism and militancy. We have adopted a zero tolerance policy in this regard," she told the Parliament, affirming that radicalism and terrorism "will not be tolerated".

Her firm assertion comes amid the recent targeted killings of people from religious minority groups and secular bloggers by suspected Islamists and the nationwide anti-terror crackdown by the police. During the question and answer session, Ms. Hasina explained that the country has joined the Saudi Arabia-led coalition in keeping with her commitment to fight militancy and terrorism. She said the Muslim Ummah had a chance to jointly fight terror as 40 nations were part of the Saudi Arabia-led alliance.

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has unremarkable links with evangelical Christians who constitute around 25 per cent of U.S. population and are a key constituency of the party.

Mr. Trump has been trying hard to win them over and in his latest trick, has questioned his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton's religion and yet again insinuated that President Barack Obama may not be a Christian.

Speaking to a select audience of conservative Christian leaders in New York — his second such appearance this month — Mr. Trump said of Ms. Clinton: "We don't know anything about Hillary in terms of religion. Now, she's been in the public eye for years and years, and yet there's no — there's nothing out there. There's like nothing out there. It's going to be an extension of Obama but it's going to be worse, because with Obama you had your guard up. With Hillary, you don't, and it's going to be worse."

The event was not open to



A group of interfaith religious leaders protest against Donald Trump outside a hotel in New York where he was to meet evangelical leaders on Tuesday. — PHOTO: REUTERS

the press, but the remarks came out after an invitee posted a video clip on the web. Mr. Trump and all his Republican challengers in the nomination contest earlier have argued that Christianity was facing danger and Islamist radicalism posed an existential threat to America — a position that Ms. Clinton and Mr. Obama have repeatedly refuted.

A Methodist by faith

Ms. Clinton has, at least on one occasion during the primary campaign, explained in

some detail her faith, in response to a question during a town hall. That she is a Methodist is well-known fact.

"My study of the Bible, my many conversations with people of faith, has led me to believe the most important commandment is to love the Lord with all your might and to love your neighbour as yourself, and that is what I think we are commanded by Christ to do, and there is so much more in the Bible about taking care of the poor, visiting the prisoners, taking in the stranger, creating op-

'We don't know anything about Hillary in terms of religion despite her being a public figure for long'

portunities for others to be lifted up," Ms. Clinton had said in a long answer.

Mr. Trump too has waded into questions of faith and Christianity on several occasions. In a moment of uncharacteristic humility, during a public speech, Mr. Trump even conceded that his book, *The Art of the Deal*, was only the second best.

"That's my second favorite book of all time. You know what my favorite is? The Bible. Nothing beats the Bible, not even *The Art of the Deal*. Not even close," he had said.

In interviews, Mr. Trump has fumbled on questions related to faith and Bible. Once asked whether he sought forgiveness from God, he said he always looked forward, but liked it when "I drink my little wine — which is about the only wine I drink — and have my little cracker," referring to communion.

Meanwhile, the U.K.-based Global Tamil Forum called upon the international

Relief to those who lost land during civil war

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan government has enacted a law enabling residents of the Northern and Eastern Provinces to reclaim their land lost to encroachers during the civil war.

The law, which will be in force for two years, covers those who were forced to abandon land and other immovable properties and unable to retrieve them due to the internal situation and activities of a "militant terrorist group" from May 1983 to May 2009. In the event of death of legitimate owners, their legal heirs could move courts and obtain the remedy.

Explaining the rationale behind the law, the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Resettlement stated that encroachers were attempting to claim prescriptive title to the properties. This had affected people in the conflict-hit areas, especially those who were forced to forsake their properties.

The GTF called upon the UNHRC to urge the Sri Lankan government not to renege on its "all important commitment" to the UN on the inclusion of Commonwealth and other foreign judges, defence lawyers and authorised prosecutors and investigators in a Sri Lankan judicial mechanism.

'Rockstar of qawwali' shot dead in Pakistan

KARACHI: One of Pakistan's best known Sufi musicians was shot dead by unknown assailants riding a motorcycle in Karachi on Wednesday, triggering an outpouring of grief over what police described as an "act of terror".

Amjad Sabri (aged around 45) was travelling by car from his home in the city's eastern Korangi area to a television studio, when a motorcycle pulled up alongside the vehicle and the attackers opened fire, Farooq Sanjarni, a police officer told AFP.

Mr. Sabri was hit by five bullets and was declared dead at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital while a companion, named as a relative, Saleem Sabri, was in critical condition, a hospital source added.

'Act of terror'

"It was a targeted killing and an act of terrorism," Muqaddas Haider, a senior police officer said, without naming possible suspects.

Mr. Sabri was a qawwali, or singer of qawwali, a form of music closely associated with Sufism, a mystical sect of Islam that is viewed as heretical by hard-line groups such as the Taliban.

The Taliban and other Islamist groups have carried out major attacks on Sufi mosques and shrines in recent years, including the 2010 bombing of the Data Darbar shrine in Lahore that killed more than 40 people.

Mr. Sabri, the son of another legendary qawwali singer, Ghulam Farid Sabri, was known as the 'rockstar of qawwali' due to his modern style of rendition. was a fixture on national television and regularly performed on a morning show during Ramzan.

Some of the most memorable and famous qawwalis of the Sabris were *Bhar do jholi meri*; *Tajdar-i-haram*; and *Mera koi nahin hai tere siwa*.

In May 2014, he was asked



Amjad Sabri

by a court to respond to blasphemy charges following the broadcast of a controversial song-and-dance routine that was set to a qawwali piece about the wedding of the Prophet Mohammed's daughter to his cousin. His killing was met with shock and condemnation.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned the attack and has directed authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Religious views

"Totally shocked to hear the news of @AmjadSabri. May Allah bless him with Janah [heaven] for he praised Him & His Prophet beautifully all his life," tweeted Ayaz Sadiq, the speaker of Pakistan's Parliament.

While the motive behind the killing was not immediately clear, Arieb Azhar, another popular Sufi singer, told AFP he believed Mr. Sabri may have been targeted because of his religious views.

Fakhre Alam, Chairman of Sindh Censor Board, claimed in a tweet that Mr. Sabri had earlier submitted an application for security, but the home department did not act on it. Opposition politicians described the killing as a failure of the provincial government to ensure a good law and order situation in Karachi, the economic hub of the country. — AFP, PTI

Indian-origin fund manager kills self



NEW YORK: Indian-origin hedge fund manager Sanjay Valvani, who was charged last week with insider trading, has committed suicide in his apartment here, police said on Wednesday.

U.S. envoy likely to meet Maduro

CARACAS: A senior U.S. diplomat is expected to meet with President Nicolas Maduro during a visit to Venezuela meant to help jump-start dialogue. Thomas Shannon, the undersecretary of state for political affairs, held a round of meeting on Tuesday with members of Venezuela's Opposition. The planned meeting with Mr.

Valvani (44), had faced securities fraud charges after he used confidential information obtained from a former official at the Food and Drug Administration to trade in the securities of two pharmaceutical companies and earned about \$25 million in trading profits. A New York Police Department spokesperson confirmed to PTI that Valvani had committed suicide. — PTI

Maduro comes a day before a scheduled session at the Organization of American States where regional governments will debate a proposed diplomatic intervention to ease tensions. The opposition is pushing for a recall referendum this year to cut short Mr. Maduro's term and trigger new elections. — AP

In Tunisia, the spray can as a weapon of choice

Graffiti artist Tarek Dhibi has devised workshops to keep unemployed youth away from extremism

HELENE DANCER

KASSERINE (TUNISIA): Kasserine, Tunisia's second-biggest city, is only a few hours' drive east from the Algerian border and the chaambi mountains, a known training ground for Islamist extremists. It is also one of the poorest cities in the country, where unemployment is rife, especially among young people, making many marginalised young men vulnerable to the lure of extremist recruiters.

Exporter of militants

As a result, Tunisia is now the largest exporter of jihadist militants in the world. According to the UN, more than 5,500 nationals between the ages of 18 and 35 have joined militant organisations, including the Islamic State.

He has chosen graffiti as his weapon of choice to try to tackle the problem, and has

devised a series of workshops for young people. He wants to teach them how to use a spray can, but also hopes that the process will help them form a strong sense of identity, which may make them less likely to join extremist groups.

"Graffiti showed me you can succeed even if you have nothing," he explains. "Art has changed countries and empires, and I chose graffiti

because it's my lifestyle." In preparation for his workshops, Mr. Dhibi has prepared the beginnings of a syllabus: an eight-point plan on how to become a graffiti artist. Comments from locals suggest that his programme will be welcomed. "There is a strong tension. It's like a balloon that will explode from the pressure," says Ali Rebah, who runs Kasserine's community radio station, KFM, a project born out of the ashes of the uprising to celebrate and make use of the media's new-found freedom.

For Mr. Dhibi, the spray can is just one strategy he hopes will make a difference. "I want to share my inspiration with the group. For us to be brothers and sisters," he says. "In our religion, we share. I will fight for them and I hope they will fight for me and our society." — © Guardian Newspapers Limited, 2016



Colombia govt., FARC agree on full ceasefire

HAVANA: Colombia's government and the FARC guerrilla group reached agreement on Wednesday on a definitive ceasefire in Latin America's longest civil war, they said in a joint statement.

The national government and FARC delegations inform the public that we have successfully reached an agreement for a definitive bilateral ceasefire and end to hostilities," the statement said. The announcement heralds an end to a half-century conflict that has seen hundreds of thousands of people getting killed.

The deal would all but end the conflict by resolving one of the final points at peace talks between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's biggest rebel group.

FARC commander Carlos Lozada tweeted: "On Thurs-

day, June 23, we will announce the last day of the war." The means of implementation of the final peace deal remain to be settled.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said this week he hopes to seal a full peace deal by July 20. The Colombian conflict started as a rural uprising in the 1960s. It has left 260,000 people dead, 45,000 missing and nearly seven million displaced, according to official figures. Peace talks have been under way in Havana since 2012. They got a boost when the FARC declared a unilateral ceasefire a year ago. — AFP

Who is running India? Is Swamy the super person influencing policy?
TV Mohandas Pai, Former Infosys Director



SENSEX
22-06-2016 **26,766**
21-06-2016 **26,813** **47** points



GOLD
22-06-2016 **29,700**
21-06-2016 **29,750** **50** ₹/10 gms



RUPEE
22-06-2016 **67.48**
21-06-2016 **67.48** **0.00** ₹/\$



BRENT OIL
22-06-2016 **49.85**
21-06-2016 **49.82** **0.03** \$/bbl

BRIEFLY

SoftBank names Miyauchi as President

TOKYO: SoftBank Group Corp said Wednesday that Ken Miyauchi, head of the group's Japanese telecommunications operations, would become President and Chief Operating Officer to replace Nikesh Arora. Mr. Arora, the former Google executive handicapped by the SoftBank founder Masayoshi Son as his successor, has abruptly quit as President after it became clear that Son wanted to remain at the helm longer than first planned. — Reuters

Pharma law to be revised, new rules for medical devices framed

MUMBAI: India said it is revising its drugs law to make it easier for companies to do business while ensuring the safety and efficacy of medicines in PM Modi's latest move to encourage industry. The government said in a statement on Wednesday that Ministers decided the current law cannot effectively regulate areas such as biological drugs, stem cells and regenerative medicines, medical devices, and clinical trials, the statement said. — Reuters

TRAI issues consultation paper on Internet telephony

NEW DELHI: Telecom regulator TRAI on Wednesday issued a consultation paper to explore framework for facility of making calls using internet application on mobile and landline numbers. The consultation follows a recent dispute between private telecom operators and state-run BSNL, which announced the launch of a new service that enables its customers to make local and STD calls from their landline phones in India by using a mobile application when they are abroad. — PTI

Textiles get tax sops in output impetus

The initiatives may lead to \$30 billion in exports and attract Rs.74,000 crore investments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Centre announced a Rs.6,000-crore special package, with tax and production incentives, for the textile and apparel sector to enable domestic firms to compete globally.

The package which will be implemented soon aims to help in creating one crore jobs, mostly for women, in the next three years, said Textiles Secretary Rashmi Verma.

The package, approved by the Cabinet, includes several tax and production incentives. The government has also suggested bringing in flexibility in labour laws to increase productivity. These initiatives are expected to lead to an increase in exports by \$30 billion and help attract investments worth Rs.74,000 crore in three years.

Finance Minister Mr. Arun Jaitley said China was gradually relinquishing its leadership position in the garment sector due to its rising wages and production shifting to high technology sectors. This, he said, was leading to garment sector firms shifting to countries including Bangladesh and Vietnam. "Economies of scale can happen in India. Through changes in schemes and regulations, we are ensuring that the sector realises its full potential in India," he said.

Competitiveness
The package would strengthen the Indian textile and apparel sector by improving its cost competitiveness in the global market, according to an official statement.

Compared with Bangladesh and Vietnam India was

DRESSING UP FOR EXPORTS

Rs. 5,500 crore for an additional five per cent duty drawback for garments	
Rs. 500 crore for additional incentives under Amended Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme	
Fixed term employment for the sector: A fixed term workman will be considered at par with a permanent workman	
Government to bear the entire employer's contribution of 12 per cent under the EPF Scheme, for new employees of garment industry earning less than Rs. 15,000 per month, for the first three years	
At present, 8.33 per cent of employer's contribution is provided by the Government	

the leader in apparel exports between 1995 and 2000. Bangladesh's apparel exports exceeded that of India in 2003, while Vietnam surpassed India in 2011, Textile Ministry data showed. With policy support, India can again regain its position in the next three years, it said.

Of the Rs.6,000 crore package, Rs.5,500 crore is for an additional five per cent duty drawback for garments. "In a first-of-its-kind move, a new scheme will be intro-

duced to refund the state levies which were not refunded so far. Drawback at 'all industries' rate' would be given for domestic duty paid inputs even when fabrics are imported under 'Advance Authorization Scheme,' according to the statement.

The remaining Rs.500 crore will be for additional incentives under Amended Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (ATUFS), where the subsidy provided to garmenting units under

the scheme is being increased from 15 per cent to 25 per cent, providing a boost to employment generation.

"The package breaks new ground in moving from input-based to outcome-based incentives; a unique feature of the scheme will be to disburse subsidy only after expected jobs have been created," according to the ministry.

To ensure increased earnings for workers, the package specifies that overtime

'Special package to help attract investments'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

COIMBATORE: The special package for textile and apparel sector approved by the cabinet is expected to attract investments in the garment sector and give a boost to other segments in the textile value chain.

Tirupur Exporters' Association president A.

Sakthivel said the measures announced would help the garment industry compete with countries such as Bangladesh in the international market. Investments in the sector were not high in the last two years and it is expected to go up now. Covering the State levies under Duty Drawback is

one of the long-pending demands of the sector, he said.

"We hope once the positive results are out, Government will extend it (incentives) to the entire value chain of textiles as the sector has huge potential for job creation," Confederation of Indian Textile Industry Secretary General Binoy Job said.

Some incentives have a sunset clause, ie till year 2019. Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das

said, "These are not open-ended incentives which will continue forever. All incentives will be valid for the next three years. We expect industries to make use of it and to create additional jobs."

RBI assures market of liquidity in case of 'Brexit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has assured market of liquidity if necessary as fears of Britain exiting the European Union loom large.

"In the run up to the referendum in the United Kingdom on its continuing in the European Union ('The Brexit'), uncertainty about the poll outcome has resulted in some amount of turbulence in global financial markets, including in India," according to a statement from the central bank.

"The RBI is maintaining a close vigil on developments, and will take all necessary steps, including liquidity support, to ensure orderly conditions in financial markets."

RBI governor Raghuram Rajan had said: "Brexit can be quite damaging if it happens." However, he had add-



Ashok Lavasa

ed that RBI was prepared for curb any volatility and reiterated that the country has 'plenty of reserves.'

No cause for alarm

Our New Delhi Special Correspondent adds:

Admitting that Britain's exit from the European Union would indeed affect markets like India, Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa said that there was no cause for

alarm in the event of such a development, and added that the country should learn how to cope with such externalities.

"The way the European market is structured, if there is any fragmentation, then it would certainly have an effect on economies that have dealings with that market," Mr. Lavasa said at an event organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "However, there is no need to be unduly alarmed. If it is happening, then we need to learn how to cope with such external factors."

Mr. Lavasa also defended the government's GDP figures, saying that they were "quite credible".

"Whoever has raised questions (about the veracity of the GDP numbers) has not come up with alternative numbers to the 7.6 per cent figure," Mr. Lavasa said. Public sector banks share

the slowdown in credit growth was not on account of interest rates being high but because banks were averse to lending in the backdrop of a mountain of bad loans.

The central bank chief said that if high interest rates were behind lower credit growth then an explanation was needed on how the loan books at private sector banks were growing at a faster pace than those at their public sector counterparts.

"Public sector bank non-food credit growth has been falling relative to credit growth from the new private sector banks since early 2014," Mr. Rajan said in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The RBI governor was addressing a meeting with industry and trade representatives on 'Resolving Stress in the Banking System.'

Public sector banks share

a disproportionate burden of stress than private sector banks, he said.

The governor emphasised on the need for getting back public sector banks into lending to support growth as private sector banks could not entirely substitute for the slowdown in public sector bank credit.

He also countered the theory that lowering interest rates could help resolve the problem of bad loans.

"The bottomline is that easier monetary policy is no

answer to serious distress, contrary to widespread belief," Mr. Rajan said.

Silver lining

The silver lining amid falling growth, Mr. Rajan said, was that banks have not been lending indiscriminately in an attempt to reduce the size of stressed assets in an expanded overall balance sheet.

"The good news is that banks are getting into the spirit of the cleanup, and pursuing reluctant promoters to take the necessary steps to rehabilitate projects," he said. The bank investors, after initially getting alarmed by the size of the disclosures, have backed PSB bank shares and there is still room for an upward valuation if the banks can improve the prospects of recovery, he said. The proposal in the Centre's economic review that RBI should capitalise banks also drew criticism from Mr. Rajan.

"The Economic Survey

has suggested the RBI should capitalise public sector banks. This seems a non-transparent way of proceeding, getting the banking regulator once again into the business of owning banks, with attendant conflicts of interest," he said.

Don't write me off

Our Bengaluru Staff Reporter adds:

In his second public appearance after announcing the decision not to seek a second term as RBI chief, Mr. Rajan said he would be in office for another two-and-a-half months, and said, "Don't write me off."

Speaking at the interactive meet with industry and trade organised by Assocham, he said, "In the last few days I have read a lot about my own obituary. I am still here for two and half months in this job." He also said, "After that, I will be still around somewhere in the world. Probably a lot in India. So don't write me off."

LIC Chairman S. K. Roy resigns

NEW DELHI: LIC Chairman S. K. Roy, appointed by the previous UPA government, has resigned nearly two years ahead of completion of his five-year term. Mr. Roy, who has been with LIC since 1981, took charge as chairman in June 2013.

According to sources, Roy has officially tendered his resignation and the Finance Ministry will send it to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for acceptance.

Reason unknown

However, the exact reason for his sudden exit could not be ascertained immediately. He had made a similar request some months ago but the Finance Ministry had asked him to reconsider that, sources said.

After the approval from ACC, the Finance Ministry would begin a search for his replacement, sources added. Mr. Roy joined LIC in 1981. — PTI

Cabinet extends UDAY scheme deadline

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



signing the official document, according to experts.

States get a breather

"Before they go into this, the states have to do their own financial restructuring," Kameswara Rao, Partner, Energy & Utilities at PwC, said. "From in-principle approval to actually signing is a slightly circuitous path, so this will take time."

"The scheme has its own merits and demerits from the states' point of view," K. Ravichandran, Senior Vice President and Co-Head, Corporate Sector Rating, ICRA said. "Many of them are weighing the pros and cons, so this decision is to give

them time. It shows the government is expecting some more states will join the scheme."

"UDAY envisages a permanent resolution of past as well as potential future issues of the sector," according to the statement. "It empowers discoms with the opportunity to break even in the next 2-3 years."

Reducing interest burden

The scheme seeks to achieve this through several simultaneous steps including reducing the interest burden on the discoms by allowing the states to take over the bulk of their debt, reducing the cost of power, and increasing the operational efficiencies of the discoms by providing capital and infrastructure to coal linkages.

So far, 19 States have given in-principle approval to join the scheme, out of which 10 states—Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir—have signed MoUs with the Central

Nod for Rs.10,000 cr start-up fund

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Global investors are once again dusting off studies of the 1930s as fears of protectionism, nationalism and a retreat of globalisation, sharpened by this week's Brexit referendum, escalate anew.

The approval will pave the way for setting up "Fund of Funds for Startups" at the Small Industries Development Bank of India for contributions to various Alternative Investment Funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India, according to an official statement. This is in line with the Start-up India Action Plan of the government unveiled this year.

The Rs.10,000 crore corpus will be built up over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles subject to progress of the scheme and availability of funds, it said. Already Rs.500 crore has been provided.

Nervy global investors revisit 1930s playbook as Brexit nears

LONDON:

Global investors

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SNIPPETS**Queso Corp to raise Rs.400 crore through IPO**

MUMBAI: Bengaluru-based Queso Corp plans to enter the capital market with an initial public offer (IPO) aggregating to Rs.400 crore by offering equity shares in the price band of Rs.310 and Rs.317. The IPO will open for subscription on June 29. The company plans to utilise the proceeds of the issue for repayment of debt, funding its capital expenditure requirements and its subsidiary, MFXchange U.S. Inc., along with funding its incremental working capital requirement and acquisitions and other strategic initiatives. Established in 2007, Queso Corp was formerly known as Iky Human Capital Solutions and is among the leading integrated business services providers and was established in 2007. The company has over 1.2 lakh employees across 47 offices. It also has operations in North America, the Middle East and South East Asia. The IPO will close for subscription on July one. — Special Correspondent

Sun Pharma's Nitrofurantoin being recalled in U.S.

NEW DELHI: As many as 2,839 bottles of anti-bacterial medicine Nitrofurantoin Oral Suspension manufactured by Sun Pharmaceutical Industries are being recalled in the U.S. market on account of failed dissolution specifications. The ongoing nationwide voluntary recall by Nostrum Laboratories Inc. for Nitrofurantoin Oral Suspension, USP, 25 mg/5 mL is a class II recall, according to the latest enforcement report on USFDA site. Citing reasons for the recall, the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) said was due to "failed dissolution specifications." —PTI

Coal imports will fall further this fiscal: Swarup

NEW DELHI: Coal imports will further come down in the ongoing fiscal on account of increased domestic output, a top official said on Wednesday. "Coal imports will continue to come down with increased availability of coal (domestic)," Coal Secretary Anil Swarup told reporters here on the sidelines of an event here. The data of the first two months of this fiscal, he said, indicate the reduction in the import of coal. "Quantities I cannot predict how much will come down. I have no doubts that coal imports will come down. Last fiscal, we saved Rs.24,000 crore and we are aiming Rs.40,000 crore of saving this year (2016-17)," Mr. Swarup said. The coal secretary further said the demand of coal in the country is not growing at the pace it was envisaged and expressed hope that with Uday scheme will help boost the demand for the dry fuel in the days to come.—PTI

Anupam Pahuja is PayPal's India Country Manager

NEW DELHI: Global payments platform PayPal on Wednesday said it has appointed Anupam Pahuja as the Managing Director and Country Manager for its India operations. Mr. Pahuja has been with the company for over six years, heading technology for APAC, PayPal said in a statement. As the MD & Country Manager for India, he will be responsible for all aspects of PayPal's India business and further strengthening the company's operations in India, he added. "India continues to be a key part of PayPal's growth strategy. In India's fast-growing e-commerce and payments market, we have enabled hundreds of thousands of small and medium businesses and entrepreneurs participate in the global economy," PayPal Asia Pacific CEO Rohan Mahadevan said. —PTI

Nippon Paint to open customer experience centres

CHENNAI: Japanese paint major Nippon Paint will be opening customer experience centres in a year's time, said a senior official. "It will be a special shop wherein a customer can walk in to get our products as well as solution built around it. Right now, it is an idea and we are yet to finalise it. Besides, we are also planning to increase our dealership network," said Mahesh Anand, President, Nippon Paint. On Wednesday, Nippon Paint in association with the students of NIFT, Chennai announced the roll out of new range of special effect paints called 'Momento'. —N. Anand

Tech Mahindra acquires BIO

Purchase widens digital portfolio in the retail, financial and travel verticals

PRADEESH CHANDRAN

BENGALURU: Tech Mahindra, the country's fifth largest software exporter, said it has acquired the U.K.-based The BIO Agency (BIO), which specialises in digital transformation across sectors such as retail, financial and travel, in an all-cash deal for an enterprise value of up to 45 million pounds.

"The payment of 22 million pounds and the surplus cash (of 5 million pounds) will be made upfront and the balance as deferred payments based on company performance," according to a BSE filing by Tech Mahindra. "The consideration is the enterprise value of 40 million pounds plus surplus cash not exceeding 5 million pounds at the completion date."

"Tech Mahindra will acquire 100 per cent of shares in BPO. The closing date of the transaction is expected to take place in the first week of July 2016," according to the filing.



The acquisition will further strengthen and enable the company to engage with its clients at the start of the journey

C. P. Gurnani

MD and CEO

The BIO Agency posted revenue of 12.5 million pounds during the fiscal year 2015-16 compared with 74 million pounds the previous year, according to the filing.

Digital portfolio

The move will help Tech Mahindra to strengthen its digital portfolio in providing better digital strategy, services and customer experience.

"The acquisition will further strengthen and enable the company to engage with its clients at the start of the journey and more impor-

tantly, help design the customer experience for their businesses," according to a statement from Tech Mahindra.

"The BIO Agency and Tech Mahindra will create one of the world's leading innovation practices," said C.P. Gurnani, MD and CEO, Tech Mahindra. "A combination of BIO's visionary thinking and delivery with Tech Mahindra's IT to Digital Transformation strategy will enable and create digital services, that get industries ready beyond just technology trans-

formation, but a larger integrated customer experience."

The acquisition will also help The BIO Agency to make sizable inroads into the telecommunications and enterprise clients of Tech Mahindra.

More clients

The acquisition will open up more clients for BIO globally especially in Europe and the US, scaling their offerings and enabling new services and deeper Digital Change, according to the statement.

"We are looking forward to the next stage of BIO's journey.

With a partner like Tech Mahindra, we plan to further scale our offering continuing to help clients change the way they engage with their customers.

"I am thrilled by the new possibilities of what our two companies will do together," said Peter Veash, CEO, The BIO Agency.

International Paper eyes India opportunities

PRASHANTH CHINTALA



HYDERABAD: The U.S.-based International Paper (IP), a player in the paper and pulp industry, will continue to evaluate investment opportunities and capacity expansion in India, Rampraveen Swaminathan, Chairman and Managing Director, International Paper APPM Ltd said.

In 2011, the \$24-billion American company had acquired Andhra Pradesh Paper Mills (APPM) Ltd, which had achieved break-even in 2014-15.

Focus on excellence

The IP APPM posted a nominal net profit of Rs.24.78 lakh during the year against a net loss of Rs.41.61 crore in the previous year, he

said. The net profit increased to Rs.20.39 crore in 2015-16.

Mr. Swaminathan said that the company had continued its focus on achieving operational excellence through integrated initiatives in safety, reliability, overall ma-

chine efficiency, quality and cost reduction resulting in improvement in production and profitability.

Now, the company, which has a market share of five per cent in India, would focus on emerging as a preferred brand, while maintaining

growth with profitability. The company would also focus on new product launches and continuing its exports to west Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"Our plant is located on the coast, which gives us a strategic advantage in exports.

"Hence, we will like to maintain the current 20-25 per cent share of exports in our overall business," Mr. Swaminathan said.

Right customers

As a part of customer support exercise, he said the company would identify and partner the right customers "who are growing and want us to grow with them. We will go and work with them in their printing units".

Honda to soon expand Gujarat scooter facility

K. T. JAGANNATHAN



CHENNAI: With the prognosis on the economy turning out favourable, Honda Motorcycles & Scooters India Pvt. Ltd. (HMSI) is gearing up for the commercial production of its second line at its newly-built scooter-only factory at Vithalapur in Gujarat.

Indicating this in an inter-

action with *The Hindu* here on Wednesday, Yadavinder Singh Guleria, Operating Head – Sales & Marketing – Senior Vice-President, said trial run of the second line had already commenced. He expected the second line, which could churn out six lakh scooters a year, to go on stream anytime now.

The first line of the Rs.1,100-crore facility, its fourth one in the country, went into production in mid-February.

The line has a capacity to

make six lakh scooters annually and is now running to full capacity, he said.

According to him, the financial year had begun well for the industry and more so for HMSI on the back of a strong growth led by automatic scooters. HMSI had gained a one percentage point market share at 27 per cent but also reported maximum sales volume at 4.48 million last year.

He expected the two-wheeler industry to post a high single-digit growth this year, adding that HMSI

would see a sales growth of over 20 per cent this year. To a question, he said that the country's economic fundamentals were strong. Forecast for a better monsoon also would help revive sales in the rural market, he added.

Karnataka expansion

On the need for further expansion, he said the company was watching the evolving dynamics in the market place and indicated that the Karnataka facility had scope to grow by another six lakh vehicles.

In this context, he pointed out that HMSI had enough land in that facility. A firm decision on further expansion could be in place by the middle of next year, he said.

Mr. Guleria said the hastening of BS VI emission norms by skipping BS V could yet prove a big challenge for the industry.

These new emission standards could bring about a demand disruption, he said.

Syona gets angel funding

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

significant stake in the company and also a representation on the board.

Mr. Varatharaju founded the company in 2012 along with Anuradha Balasubramanian. Syona Cosmetics markets high-end professional cosmetics under its flagship brand Estrella Professional.

According to Raja Varatharaju, one of the founders of Syona, the funding would give The Chennai Angels a

Domestic Competitive Bidding (e-tender)

NIT No: WBSEDCL/CERE/JHAUKUTHI/NIT 03(e)-16/2016-17 Date: 23.06.2016

Domestic Competitive Bidding (e-tender)

NIT No: WBSEDCL/CERE/JHAUKUTHI/NIT 03(e)-16/2016-17 Date: 23.06.2016

Download Period of e-Tender Documents: 23.06.2016 to 13.07.2016

Online Bid Preparation & Submission: 30.06.2016 to 13.07.2016

Contact Person:

Senior Technical Services Manager,

Ph.: 0265-2237078, 2979013,

7874064157(M)

Fax: 0265-2230546

E-mail: rosen@indianoil.in

Please visit our website

<https://tenders.tendertender.com/> for more details, All revisions, clarifications, corrigenda, addenda, time extensions, etc. to the tender will be available on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit this website to keep themselves updated.

CPWD - NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, BCD-I Division, Central PWD, 3rd Floor 'A' wing, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bangalore invites on behalf of President of India online "Percentage item bid" from approved and eligible Composite Category contractors of CPWD and those of appropriate list of MES, BSNL and Railway for the following work.

1)NIT No. 17/16-17/CE/BCD I/B,lore. a)Name of work: Construction of building for Comprehensive EMI-EMC test facility and ID Laboratory at CPR, Bangalore, Sub Head: Building portion including Internal water supply, sanitary installations, drainage, development and bulk services.

b)Estimated Cost: Rs.5,30,47,184/-

c)Earnest money Rs.10,60,944/-

d)Period of completion : 12 Months.

Last date and time of submission of bid upto 15.00 hours on 07.07.2016

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from website www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD or www.cpwd.gov.in. The press Notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

Office of Chief Chemist

Public Health Engineering Department, Jaipur

(e-NIT No. 01/2016-17)

No: CC/PHED/BLL/NIT/01/2016-17 Date:

On behalf of Governor of Rajasthan 01 Nos (NIT 01/2016-17) online tenders costing, from Rs. 1325 lacs is hereby, invited from eligible bidders for the work of water sample collections. Sanitary survey of water sources, sample testing, Operation & Maintenance of already established block level laboratories. Uploading of sample testing results on IMIS/PHED website, documentation as well as GIS mapping to locate each source and linking with each test result of all drinking water sources, development of web based online MIS system & preparation/habitation/village wise water quality maps (showing parameters T.D.S./Fluoride/Nitrate/Multiple problematic parameters) in the 48 blocks of districts Jaipur, Alwar, Dausa, Sikar, & Jhunjhunu (Region-Jaipur) in Rajasthan state for three years on rate contract basis as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/tender document available on websites: <http://sppr.rajasthan.gov.in>, [www.rajwater.gov.in](http://rajwater.gov.in) and <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website: <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> as per prescribed schedule. The Chief Chemist of the PHED Rajasthan mentioned in NIT shall receive the online tenders.

SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE

(Rakesh Kumar Mathur)

Chief Chemist

PHED, Rajasthan, Jaipur

SARDAR SAROVAR NARMADA NIGAM LIMITED

(A wholly owned Government of Gujarat Undertaking)

Tender Notice No. / Corrigendum No. & Name of the work

1) Est. Cost (Rs. in lacs)

2) Tender Fee (in Rs. in lacs)

3) DEM (Rs. in lacs)

4) Class

5) Time Limit

(a) Pre-bid conference

(b) Last date for online submission of tender documents

(c) Last date for physical submission

(d) Online verification of documents & opening of tender (tech)

(e) Online opening of price bid

1. 2. 3.



HUSTLE, HIT, NEVER QUIT!

Ronaldo finds his touch in goalfest

Portugal qualifies as one of the best third-place finishers; Hungary wins group

Hungary 3 (Gera 19, Dzsudzsak 47 & 55) drew with **Portugal** 3 (Nani 42, Ronaldo 50 & 62)

LYON: Cristiano Ronaldo erupted from his scoring slump by netting his first two goals of the European Championship on Wednesday, helping Portugal earn a 3-3 draw with Hungary and sending both teams into the round of 16.

Ronaldo scored in the 50th and 62nd minutes, the first with a spectacular back heel, making him the first player to score in four consecutive European Championships.

"We know he is a world-

class player. He is a dangerous player, and you can't always control him," Hungary coach Bernd Storck said. "We didn't give Portugal a lot of chances, but of course when Ronaldo has the ball he can score."

Portugal ended up with three points in Group F from three draws, advancing as one of the top four third-place teams. Hungary won the group with five points, followed by Iceland in second with the same number of points.

After not scoring in his team's opening two draws, the 31-year-old Ronaldo broke out at the Stade de Lyon to increase his record haul with his 59th and 60th career goals for

tossing it into a nearby lake.

Ronaldo's first contribution came after he had again failed to convert a series of free kicks. Instead, he turned playmaker to set up Nani for an equaliser just before halftime, 23 minutes after Zoltan Gera had given Hungary 1-0 lead.

Balazs Dzsudzsak's first of two goals, a deflected free kick, put Hungary back in front in the 47th minute. But moments later it was Ronaldo's turn to get his first goal of Euro 2016.

Dzsudzsak struck again five minutes later with a shot that grazed Nani before looping over Patricio to restore the lead at 3-2. Ronaldo then came

through with a second goal to level the score for good when he powered in a header from a cross by substitute Ricardo Quaresma. — AP

MATCH STATS

Hungary	Portugal
41	Possession
10	Total attempts
5	Shots on target
77	Passing accuracy %
229	Passes completed
15	Fouls committed
1032	Distance covered



RISING TO THE OCCASION: Cristiano Ronaldo, under pressure to deliver for Portugal, came up with two strikes — including this bullet header — but was unable to ensure victory for his team. — PHOTO: AP

Iceland in dream land, to meet England

Iceland 2 (Bodvarsson 18, Traustason 90+4) bt **Austria** 1 (Schopf 60)

PARIS: Iceland, the smallest nation at the European Championship, delivered the feel-good story of the tournament by beating Austria 2-1 on Wednesday.

Iceland's victory, which came with virtually the last kick of the game, means the team has qualified for the round-of-16. It will meet England in Nice on Monday. Aron Ingvi Traustason sealed the win in the fourth minute of injury time. Having drawn its first two matches, the victory secured Iceland second place in Group F behind Hungary.

Iceland took the lead through Jon Dadi Bodvarsson in the 18th minute at Stade de France.

The striker put the team in front at the Stade de France after Kari Arnason flicked the ball into his path. Bodvarsson controlled the ball in the area with a fine touch and slotted a



CLINICAL: Jon Dadi Bodvarsson controlled a flicked header by Kari Arnason (right) off a throw-in, and wrong-footed Austria goalkeeper Robert Almer with a low finish. — PHOTO: AP

low shot past Austria keeper Robert Almer.

It was fortunate to see Austria defender Aleksandar Dragovic miss a penalty in the 37th and was then forced to defend

for most of the second half.

Austria equalised in the 60th minute through substitute Alessandro Schoepf and dominated the final stages, only to be hit by a classic coun-

ter-attack in the last seconds as almost the entire team piled forward.

Traustason slid in at the far post to bundle the ball into the net. — AP

14 qualify

France, Switzerland, Wales, England, Slovakia, Germany, Poland, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Northern Ireland, Iceland and Portugal have qualified for the knockouts.

Meanwhile, results in Group F have ensured Albania will go home.

Portugal's 3-3 draw with Hungary ensures it advances in third place in Group F with three points and a goal difference of zero. Iceland placed second in the group by beating Austria 2-1.

Albania has stayed in France since Sunday to await the tiebreakers that separate third-placed teams.

Albania has three points but a minus-2 goal difference, and fewer goals scored than Turkey which also has three points and minus-2.

Turkey stays in contention

Turkey 2 (Yilmaz 10, Tufan 65) bt **Czech Republic** 0

LENS: Burak Yilmaz and Ozan Tufan scored a goal in each half as Turkey beat the Czech Republic 2-0 to keep alive slim hopes of reaching the last 16 on Tuesday. The defeat eliminated the Czech Republic, which had suffered at Turkish hands at a past Euro Finals.

Eighteen-year-old Emre Mor, who has been signed by Borussia Dortmund, burst down the right after 10 minutes, saw Yilmaz in the middle and provided a perfect ball for the Beijing Guoan player to fire the ball into the corner.

In a closely-fought contest that was Turkey's only entry into the Czech goal area in the first half hour.

Turkish goalkeeper Volkan Babacan, who produced a series of brilliant saves, also had some luck when Tomas Sivok's header came off the crossbar.

At the 2008 Euro Finals, Turkey had come from two goals down to beat the Czech Republic 3-2. And Czech veteran Jaroslav Plasil, who scored in that game, played a one-two with Borek Dockal and fired a 25-metre drive that was heading for the corner of the net before Babacan made a dramatic leap to push it wide.

The Czech Republic pressed



BULWARK: Volkan Babacan contributed a lot to Turkey's success with brilliant saves against the Czech Republic. — PHOTO: AFP

forward but Turkey struck a killer blow on 65 minutes. Selcuk Inan put across a free-kick that Mehmet Topal headed back and Tufan smashed a tight angle shot that powered past Petr Cech.

"It's, of course, a huge disappointment for everyone. We had it in our hands, unfortunately we failed. We started very well, they scored on the first attack and that was the breaking point," said Cech. "If we played another four hours today, I think we would still not be able to score."

The three points ensured that Turkey could still reach the last 16, at least until the final round of Group E matches.

Off the field, Turkish fans threw flares on the pitch following the second goal. Turkey was punished after its fans set off flares during the defeat by Spain last Friday. — AFP

At least three flares landed on the pitch following the second goal. Turkey was punished after its fans set off flares during the defeat by Spain last Friday. — AFP

Coach Vicente del Bosque

Sensational Perisic takes Croatia to the top

Spain condemned to clash with Italy, a situation coach del Bosque said was less than ideal

Croatia 2 (Kalinic 45, Perisic 87) bt **Spain** 1 (Morata 7)

BORDEAUX: Ivan Perisic struck a sensational winner, three minutes from time, as Croatia ended Spain's 14-game unbeaten run at the European Championship finals to top Group D after a 2-1 victory on Tuesday.

Spain will now face Italy in the last 16 in Paris on Monday in a repeat of the 2012 final, while Croatia will take on one of the best third-placed sides in Lens on Saturday.

Alvaro Morata's early strike got Spain off to a flying start. But despite the absence of Luka Modric through injury, Croatia battled back to equalise before half-time through Nikola Kalinic.

Spain captain Sergio Ramos saw his penalty saved by Danijel Subasic 18 minutes from time. And that miss proved vital when Perisic snuck the ball home at David de Gea's near post.

Spain could also have to face World champion Germany in the quarterfinals and host France in the semifinals if it is to reach the final in Paris on July 10.

Coach Vicente del Bosque



would rather have avoided an early meeting with the in-form Italians. "It is not ideal, that would have been to finish first (in the group)," said del Bosque.

"We have to recover well. We are prepared to turn this situation around."

Slick move

Morata's return to European champion Real Madrid from Juventus had been confirmed earlier on Tuesday. And he moved level with club teammate Gareth Bale on three goals in the fight for the golden boot by finishing off a slick

Spanish move after seven minutes.

David Silva's cute reverse pass picked out Cesc Fabregas's run and the Chelsea midfielder's cross was tapped into an empty net by Morata.

Spain, rarely troubled at the back in its opening two games, was given plenty of problems by Croatia even without Modric. Kalinic stung the palms of de Gea before forcing an error from the Manchester United keeper as he dallied.

The loose ball fell to Ivan Rakitic and his brilliant chipped effort floated over

Barcelona teammate Gerard Pique on the line before coming back off both the crossbar and post.

Morata had a great chance to double Spain's lead, but he failed to control Fabregas's fine through ball with just Subasic to beat.

However, del Bosque's men were pegged back right on half-time when Perisic's cross from the left was flicked home by Kalinic.

It was the first time Spain had conceded in 11 competitive games stretching back to October 2014 and the first time

it had conceded in the Euros after a record 733 minutes.

Spain was then handed a great chance to retake the lead when referee Bjorn Kuipers adjudged Silva had been pushed by Sime Vrsaljko inside the area.

Modric appeared to send on a message to Subasic when he saw his Real Madrid teammate Ramos step up to take the spot-kick.

And Subasic got lucky as his save was allowed to stand despite the fact he had encroached well before Ramos took aim.

Croatia took full advantage to blow the tournament wide open as Perisic lashed home to round off a clinical counter-attack. — AFP

MATCH STATS

Croatia	Spain
40	Possession
13	Total attempts
4	Shots on target
84	Passing accuracy %
244	Passes completed
10	Fouls committed
1064	Distance covered

Ronaldo loses his cool

Video footage has emerged of Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo bringing an impromptu interview to a sudden halt — by throwing the reporter's microphone into a nearby lake.

The clip shows Ronaldo, surrounded by security guards, strolling by a lake.

When the reporter from Portugal's CMTV approaches, a silent Ronaldo wrestles the microphone from his grasp with one hand and pitches it into the water. — Reuters

Hungary goes crazy for keeper's baggies

Hungary is going crazy for the grey trackuits bottoms worn by the national team's goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly. Schoolkids, actors and television presenters have all been donning Kiraly trousers. "I'm not a top model, my job is defending. I don't feel comfortable without them," said Kiraly about his trousers. — AFP

Referee in spotlight after Spain penalty call



kicked, while three Croatia players were already well inside the penalty area at the time.

Refereeing blog *The 3rd Team* highlighted that the "Laws of the Game are actually clear" and there should be no encroachment by players or movement off the line by the keeper.

However, its author also highlighted that "it is usual and nothing new that players encroach at penalty kicks" and that "nobody really cared or protested." — AP

France opens door to Benzema

French Football Federation president Noel Le Graet has opened the door for striker Karim Benzema's return after the European Championship.

The Real Madrid forward is facing preliminary charges of conspiracy to blackmail in a sex-tape scandal involving France teammate Mathieu Valbuena. Benzema was left out of the Euro 2016 squad in a decision taken by Le Graet and coach Didier Deschamps in the interests of team harmony and avoiding media intrusion.

Speaking at a news conference on Wednesday at the national team's training camp in Clairefontaine, Le Graet said he hoped the case would be resolved quickly. "He's not suspended for life," Le Graet said. — AP

Damaged Lille pitch to be re-laid

UEFA has ordered the pitch at the Lille Euro 2016 stadium to be hastily re-laid because of "irreversible damage" caused by bad weather. France coach Didier Deschamps had said it was "shameful" to have his team's 0-0 draw with Switzerland on the Lille pitch where several players slipped on the turf.

The grass was painted green before the match in a bid to hide its poor state. Giant blowers had been used at the ground in recent weeks between matches to make sure the turf is not damaged by rain.

The new turf will be brought from the Netherlands and laid on Friday. The pitch has already been re-laid once this year.

UEFA said it was "confident" the new surface would pose no problems for the last-16 match on June 26 and quarterfinal on July 1 to be played at Lille. — AFP

Miraculous McGovern earns adulation



Eric's dire warning

Other countries will dread the prospect of facing England in the knockout rounds, midfielder Eric Dier has said.

"Of course we couldn't win them all but in general our play has been very positive, and I am sure there are plenty who won't want to

Australia in final

BRIDGTON: Australia displayed the composure and assurance of a World champion to chase down a target of 283 and advance to the final with a six-wicket victory over the West Indies in the seventh match of the Tri-Nation One-Day International series at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Tuesday.

Marlon Samuels's first-ever hundred against Australia and a record partnership with Denesh Ramdin lifted the West Indies to a competitive 282 for eight batting first. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

West Indies: J. Charles c Smith b Starc 0, A. Fletcher c Marsh b Starc 9, D. Bravo c Smith b Hazlewood 15, M. Samuels c Marsh b Faulkner 125, D. Ramdin b Starc 91, K. Pollard c Marsh b Boland 20, C. Brathwaite b Boland 7, J. Holder c Marsh b Faulkner 1, S. Narine (not out) 1; Extras (lb-4, w-9); 13; Total (for eight wkt. in 50 overs): 282.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-29, 3-31, 4-223, 5-247, 6-269, 7-274, 8-282.

Australia bowling: Starc 10-1-51-3, Hazlewood 10-3-40-1, Faulkner 10-0-56-2, Boland 10-0-69-2, Marsh 5-0-36-0, Finch 3-0-16-0, Maxwell 2-0-10-0.

Australia: U. Khawaja c Ramdin b Gabriel 17, A. Finch c Samuels b Brathwaite 16, S. Smith run out 78, G. Bailey c Pollard b Benn 34, M. Marsh (not out) 79, G. Maxwell (not out) 46; Extras (b-3, lb-4, w-6); 13; Total (for four wkt. in 48.4 overs): 283.

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-35, 3-99, 4-221.

West Indies bowling: Holder 2-0-20-0, Gabriel 9-1-43-1, Brathwaite 9-0-62-1, Benn 10-0-47-1, Narine 10-0-49-0, Pollard 5-0-42-0, Fletcher 3-0-13-0.

Toss: Australia.

Man-of-the-Match: Samuels.

Australia won by six wickets with eight balls to spare.

India prevails in final-over thriller

CRICKET / Sran keeps his nerve as the visitors register a three-run win to clinch series



FIGHTING KNOCK: Kedar Jadhav pulled India out of the woods with a timely half-century. —PHOTO: AFP

Four-day conclave — an image-building exercise

RAKESH RAO

DHARAMSHALA: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is known to do things in style. Now its four-day 'Conclave' has reached this picturesque, hilly destination.

After ensuring Test status to this sleepy town, the recently elected BCCI president Anurag Thakur is hosting the country's select coaches, captains, administrators and the decision-making machinery of Indian cricket to finalise the course of action, in these testing times, over the next two days.

With the Lodha Committee set to hear the arguments one last time later this month and the Supreme Court to pronounce its order next month, the Board looks desperate to appear clean, progressive and, of course, transparent in its decision-making.

This is also the last opportunity for the Board to alter the perception that it is a 'cosy club' of a select few. Fearing a

the far-reaching impact of the Lodha Committee recommendations, when implemented in full, the Board clearly has few options.

Before the verdict binds the Board into implementing these recommendations, aimed solely at reforming the working of the cricketing body, the decisions taken at the all-powerful Working Committee here could help Thakur and his team.

Reforms started

To redeem its sullied image, following the match-fixing episodes in the Indian Premier League and involvement of two of the now-banned franchises, the Board had begun the reforms under former president Shashank Manohar by bringing transparency in financial matters.

It was decided to display on the Board's website any transaction involving Rs. 25 lakh or more.

Thakur appears keen to continue the good work. With a

new secretary in Ajay Shirke, the team has the opportunity to build a positive image for the Board.

On cricketing matters, the Board has done well to add six new Test venues as 13 Tests are set to be hosted this season. The Board has shown its inclination to host a 'pink ball Test' against New Zealand this season and the experiments have started in right earnest.

Thakur has talked about bringing the crowds back to Test cricket. As a consequence, the novelty of a day-night Test under lights, with a pink ball, could well serve as a catalyst. The decision of playing this season's Duleep Trophy with a pink ball underlines the Board's seriousness on the subject.

Unprecedented

The transparency displayed in the process of selecting the new coach for the senior team has been unprecedented. An advisory committee involving three cricketers of repute has been entrusted with the job of selecting the new coach.

Unlike the past, the procedure invited invitations from those interested.

A few were interviewed and heard. Once the final candidate is chosen, the selection will be ratified by the Working Committee here on June 24.

Among other issues, the meeting is also set to ratify the appointment of the Board's CEO Rahul Johri, the decisions taken by its Technical Committee and discuss adopting neutral venues for this season's Ranji Trophy, which is believed to have been opposed by several captains.

On Thursday, there is a meeting of coaches and captains, the IPL Governing Council, junior selection committee and the Affiliation Committee.

But the focus will be on the Working Committee meeting, likely to be the last one before the all-reforming Lodha Committee comes into force.

The transparency displayed in the process of selecting the new coach for the senior team has been unprecedented. An advisory committee involving three cricketers of repute has

Tuesday to advance to the last eight stage where he will take on Korea's Lee Dongyun.

Vikas, a former World Championships bronze medallist, joined Manoj Kumar (64kg) and Sumit Sangwan (81kg) in the quarterfinals.

All three have to make the semifinals to book an Olympic berth besides being assured of a medal.

L. Devendra Singh (49kg), seeded fourth, is through to the semifinals but has to be in the summit clash of his weight category to clinch a Rio spot.

After a day's rest, Vikas, Manoj and Sumit will compete in their respective bouts. Devendra, on the other hand, will be seen in action on Friday.

Devendra will face Spain's Samuel Heredia, who stunned

top seed Dmytro Zamotaev of Ukraine. Manoj, a former Commonwealth Games gold medallist, will face Tajikistan's Rakhimov Shavkatdzon. Sumit will be up against Russia's Petr Khamukov.

India has not sent any entry

in the 56kg category as Shiva Thapa had qualified for the Rio Games at the Asian qualifiers in March. — PTI

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Vani in the lead**WRESTLING****Grapplers happy with Bulgaria training trip**

UTHRA GANESAN

BENGALURU: Vani Kapoor established a two-stroke lead after the first round of the ninth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, which teed off at Clover Greens on Wednesday.

The scores (top-eight, after 18 holes): Vani Kapoor 70; Amandeep Dhill 72; Afshan Fatima, Gauri Monga, Shweta Galande 73; Saaniya Sharma, Ankita Tiwana 74; Neha Tripathi 76. — Principal Correspondent

Harika is the best

HYDERABAD: Grandmaster Harika Dronavalli added another feather to her cap by winning the best women's player award in the Eurasian Blitz chess tournament in Kazakhstan.

The India No. 2 player picked up a cash prize of \$2500 and 60 Elo points to regain her position in the top 10. — PTI

Kadhe advances

TULSA (USA): Arjun Kadhe made the second round and the doubles quarterfinals of the \$25,000 Futures tennis tournament in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The results:

\$25,000 **Futures, Richmond, Canada:** First round: Gonzales Austin (US) bt Lakshit Sood 6-4, 6-1. **Doubles pre-quarterfinals:** Gonzales Austin & Ryan Lipman (US) bt Chandril Sood & Lakshit Sood 7-6(6), 7-6(1).

\$25,000 **Futures, Cordoba:** First round: Akira Santillan (Jpn) bt Srim Balaji 6-4, 6-3.

\$25,000 **ITF men, Tulsa, USA:** First round: Arjun Kadhe bt Ezekiel Clark (US) 6-3, 6-4. **Doubles pre-quarterfinals:** Lucas Gerch (Ger) & Arjun Kadhe w/o Majed Kilani (Tun) & Or Ram-Harel (Isr).

\$10,000 **ITF women, Anning, China:** First round: Xinyu Jiang (Chn) bt Rishika Sunkara 6-3, 6-4; Sowjanya Bavissetti bt Yidi Yang (Chn) 6-3, 0-6, 6-4.

\$10,000 **ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh:** First round: Naomi Totka (Hun) w/o Shivika Burman. **Doubles pre-quarterfinals:** Sabrina Bamburac (GBR) & Tanisha Rohira bt Jasmin Ladurner (Ita) & Arantxa Andrade 6-4, 6-2.

\$10,000 **ITF women, Grand Baie La Croisette, Mauritius:** Pre-quarterfinals: Estelle Cascino (Fra) bt Moulika Ram 6-2, 6-0; Sneha Devi Reddy bt Claudia Williams (Nzl) 6-3, 6-0. **Doubles quarterfinals:** Nicole Dzenza (Zim) & Vanja Klaric (Srb) bt Nidhi Chilumula & Sneha Devi Reddy 6-4, 6-4; Kyra Shroff & Dhruuti Venugopal bt Sofia Booth (US) & Emmauelle De Beer (Mri) 4-0 (retd). — Sports Bureau

tioned rooms would not have helped. Their junior squad is also very good so the practice we got for our wrestlers was very helpful," chief coach Jagminder Singh told *The Hindu* on return.

However, there would be no break for the wrestlers who proceeded directly to the SAI training centre in Sonipat (the women would be training in Lucknow) from the airport. "Olympics is less than 45 days away, there is not a day to waste. The morning session was not held, obviously, because we came back only today but even the evening session would be held," Jagminder added.

Yogeshwar Dutt, the lone Olympic medallist among those who have qualified for Rio, agreed. "Weather plays a big part in training. The fact that we practised in a hilly centre made a lot of difference and staying away from any distractions, helped us concentrate fully on preparing for the Olympics," Dutt

told *The Hindu*.

Dutt, who had been struggling with a knee injury for a long time, insisted he was perfectly fit now. Though he agreed that the Bulgarian juniors were not ideal opposition, the Indians found a way out as well.

"We practised with those in 70kg or 74kg. That helped us get good training in terms of competition. In any case, what matters is how much you practice and the intensity of it. That was very good during the 15-day camp," Dutt, who participates in the 65kg category, added.

It may be recalled that the WFI's first choice of venue for training had been Belarus, a country the Indian wrestlers had visited before the London Olympics as well and credited for their success by the likes of Yogeshwar Dutt and Sushil Kumar.

However, this time around, the Belarus federation had refused permission saying their own Rio-bound wres-



FIGHTING FIT: Though it was not the first choice as a training centre, Yogeshwar Dutt, seen here at a gym session, returned satisfied after sparring with his Bulgarian counterparts.

tlers were training elsewhere.

The second choice venue, Poland, was ruled out due to delayed visa formalities and

even the main Bulgarian squad of 11 has been training out of the country, leaving only the juniors as sparring partners for Indian wrestlers.

ONGC's shooting initiative

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



USEFUL EXPOSURE: Shooters in the ONGC training camp with World Championship silver medallist Jitu Rai at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in Tughlakabad.

The camp was organised by Mayank Marwah who runs the Doon Institute of Shooting Sports in Dehradun, an academy that has guided a string of top shooters like Prerna Gupta, Trishla Malik, Jatin Rathore, Renuka Negi, Monarch Kumar, over the last 17 years.

The enthusiastic shooters, male and female, who ranged in the age group of 5 to 50 years, trained for three hours each in the morning and evening sessions. It was an icing on the cake for the enthusiastic youngsters when they were taken to the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in

Tughlakabad and given a chance to interact with the country's leading pistol shooters Jitu Rai and Prakash Nanappa.

The Olympics-bound

shooters who were training for the last World Cup to be staged in Baku, impressed upon the young trainees the need for hard work and dedication.

"The camp was organised at the initiative of R.K. Malik, the secretary of the Residents Association of the ONGC colony, whose daughter, international medallist Trishla Malik had been introduced to the sport through such a camp six years ago in Dehradun," said Mayank Marwah, quite pleased with the drive and response.

Messi fires Argentina into the final

HOUSTON: Lionel Messi became Argentina's all-time record goalscorer as the two-time world champion outclassed the United States 4-0 to reach the Copa America Centenario final here on Tuesday. Messi curled in a

magnificent 32nd-minute free-kick to become Argentina's all-time record scorer with 55 goals as the United States' campaign ended with an emphatic defeat.

Argentina will now face either Chile or Colombia in Sunday's final in New Jersey.

The result: Argentina 4 (Lavezzi 3, Messi 32, Higuain 50, 86) bt United States 0. — AFP

DELHI ROUND-UP**Bal Bhawan in final**

Arpit Rana's match-winning knock of 100 not out helped Bal Bhawan School beat Vidya Jain School by eight wickets and enter the final of the Ace under-14 cricket tournament.

Varun Yadav's century (108) went in vain for Vidya Jain.

The scores: VIS 231 for five in 30 overs (Varun Yadav 108, Rohit Sehrawat two for 69) lost to BBS 232 for two in 26.1 overs (Arpit Rana 100 n.o., Rushal Saini two for 62).

Prabhnoor and Saurabh shine

Prabhnoor Singh and Saurabh Aggarwal returned identical figures of three wickets for 11 runs as West Delhi Academy beat RP Academy by six wickets in a low-scoring match of the Manav Chopra Memorial cricket tournament. Abhishek Kumar scored a half-century for the winner.

The scores: Balaji Sports 114 for eight in 30 overs (Abhishek Kumar 53, Vandit Sharma 32, Ayush Anand three for 27) bt DPS Noida 65 in 17 overs (Amogh Anand 33, Aniket four for 10, Parth Madan three for 17).

SHOOTING**Chennai in joint lead with Smykkov and Borello**

BAKU: Kynan Chennai's 74 saw him share the lead jointly with two others, Russian Maksim Smykkov and Argentine Fernando Borello, at the halfway stage in the men's trap on the opening day of the shooting World Cup here on Wednesday.

Chennai had rounds of 25, 24 and 25.

Zoravar Singh (71) and Prithviraj Tondaiman (70) were in the 15th and 22nd spots, with two more rounds to be shot before the knockout phase.

Rajeswari Kumari was one point adrift in the 26th place, following a series of 22, 20 and 22. — Sports Bureau

wickets for the losing side.

The scores: RPA 63 in 25 overs (Prabhnoor Singh three for 11, Saurabh Aggarwal three for 11, Vivek Yadav two for 25) lost to WDA 66 for four in 13 overs (Manoj Rawat three for 28).

Balaji Sports posts win

Medium pacer Aniket picked up four wickets for just 10 runs and Parth Madan got three for 17 as Balaji Sports beat DPS Noida by 49 runs in a league match of the Abheeta Khanna Memorial cricket tournament.

Abhishek Kumar scored a half-century for the winner.

The scores: Balaji Sports 114 for eight in 30 overs (Abhishek Kumar 53, Vandit Sharma 32, Ayush Anand three for 27) bt DPS Noida 65 in 17 overs (Amogh Anand 33, Aniket four for 10, Parth Madan three for 17).

Ministry of Textiles
Government of India



SPECIAL PACKAGE OF INCENTIVES

To Create 1 Crore Additional Jobs in 3 Years in Textiles & Apparel Sector

Enhanced competitiveness of Apparel Industry

Tax incentives to provide an impetus to garment manufacturing and exports

Enhanced duty drawback for Garment sector

Additional production / employment subsidy for Garment manufacturing under ATUFS

Incentives to enhance productivity of labour

Additional exports of ₹ 2.02 lac crores

Fresh Investment of over ₹ 74000 crores

For details on the Schemes and Initiatives visit the website of the Ministry of Textiles: www.texmin.nic.in

Texmin.nic.in TexMinIndia @TexMinIndia

**Liquid ocean under icy shell**

Pluto may have a liquid ocean sloshing around under its icy crust, according to a new analysis of data from NASA's New Horizons spacecraft.

**New coin for Chinmayananda birth centenary**

The Reserve Bank of India will soon put into circulation Rs.10 coins bearing the portrait of Swami Chinmayananda to commemorate his birth centenary.

**Upload 140-second videos on Twitter**

Micro-blogging website Twitter now lets users create video tweets up to 140 seconds long. The earlier limit was only 30 seconds.

STAR TREK**Kashyap's next a psychological-horror film**

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap has confirmed that his next directorial venture will be a psychological-horror, titled *Giddi*. It is one of the three projects, which are a part of the collaboration between Kashyap's Phantom Films and U.S. production house Blumhouse Productions.

"I will direct *Giddi* next. It is a psychological-horror [film]. We are almost done writing the script. Once that's done, we will decide the cast,"

Kashyap. The other two projects under the tie-up are *Ghoul*, a horror movie starring Radhika Apte in the lead, and Hindi remake of Qaushiq Mukherjee's horror film *Ludo*. Mukherjee, popularly known as Q, will helm the remake. Phantom Films has also partnered with Netflix for the streaming giant's first original Indian series. — PTI

Bryan Cranston in Power Rangers reboot

Actor Bryan Cranston has been roped in to play Zordon in the *Power Rangers* remake. The 60-year-old six-time Emmy winner broke the news on Twitter. "Excited to play #Zordon in the #PowerRangersMovie! T or F: #BlueRanger Billy Cranston was named after what actor?", he wrote, noting that Billy Cranston, the Blue Ranger, was named after him.

The *Breaking Bad* actor has worked with the *Power Rangers* franchise previously as well, voicing Snizard and Twin Man on the *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* series in the early '90s. The film will chronicle the adventures of five high school students who must save the planet, which includes their town of Angel Grove, from alien destruction. Elizabeth Banks is playing the villain, Rita Repulsa, while the young cast includes Becky G as Yellow Ranger Trini, Ludi Lin as Black Ranger Zack, Dacre Montgomery as Red Ranger Jason, Naomi Scott as Pink Ranger Kimberly, and RJ Cyler as Blue Ranger Billy. The film is scheduled to release in March 2017. — PTI

Rihanna chokes back tears onstage

Singer Rihanna broke down mid-concert during a show in Dublin to a point where she couldn't continue with her song. She was on her 'Anti World Tour' in Ireland. Instagram videos of the concert showed Riri singing the first few lyrics of her famous hit song with Eminem *Love the Way You Lie* with tears in her eyes.

When the crowd sang the song back to her, she stepped back with her hand in the air. Later she attempted to continue with the track, but kept getting choked up. Rihanna later took to Instagram to say she was so "blessed" to have the love from fans. "What a night! Such an emotional show for me! I feel so lucky to have a team like the Navy man! I'm blessed! No matter what I'm on you always snatch me out of it! I am so grateful to have you all," she wrote. — PTI

YouTube must fairly compensate artists'

Taylor Swift, who once removed her entire catalogue from Spotify and criticised the digital music service for not fairly compensating artists, has joined a bunch of other musicians to sign a petition calling for a reform of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). The petition, organised by producer Irving Azoff, claims that YouTube has provided a "safe harbour" for copyright infringement under the current writing of the DMCA. The copyright law, signed in 1998 by Bill Clinton, has been allowing the website to serve copyrighted music without paying royalties to the artists or their labels, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

"(The DMCA) has allowed major tech companies to grow and generate huge profits by creating ease of use for consumers to carry almost every recorded song in history in their pocket via a smartphone, while songwriters' and artists' earnings continue to diminish," the petition reads. "Music consumption has skyrocketed, but the monies generated by individual writers and artists for that consumption has plummeted," it says. — PTI

**Hulk shows restraint**

Performers stand inside a designated green box in Times Square in New York on Tuesday, the first day of new rules coming into effect. Following incidents where aggressive performers harassed tourists, the city management said that performers caught out of bounds could be arrested or face a fine of up to \$500. — PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Bollywood stars set off to Madrid for IIFA

MADRID: The 17th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards gala — which takes the power of Bollywood to international shores every year — will celebrate 60 years of India's diplomatic relations with Spain here starting Thursday with close to 150 film celebrities and over 20,000 fans in attendance.

The Spanish capital is the fourth European city the film academy is visiting after London, Yorkshire and Amsterdam.

The four-day gala, which will conclude with a colourful and exuberant awards ceremony on Sunday, will play host to some of the most

celebrated stars of the Indian film industry. Shahid Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha, Athiya Shetty and several other actors have set off to Madrid. Anil Kapoor and Hrithik Roshan are also part of the event.

The event will present an amalgamation of two diverse countries and cultures aimed at bringing the magic of Indian cinema not only to Spain but also to Latin America, according to Andre Timmins, director, Wizcraft International, the producers and creator of the IIFA. "We treat IIFA as India because, ultimately, through the platform, we are selling India," Mr. Timmins. — IANS

Australia buys up cattle farm to help Great Barrier Reef

ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE: A tourist diving on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. — PHOTO: AFP

SYDNEY: A huge cattle station that pours sediment into the Great Barrier Reef was bought on Wednesday by the government as efforts are stepped up to help the World Heritage site bounce back from mass bleaching.

Global warming has been wreaking havoc on the reef, contributing to an unprecedented bleaching event this year that saw much of it whiten and almost a quarter of corals die.

The reef, which teems with marine life, is also under pressure from farming run-off, with the 560 square kilometre Springvale Station near Cooktown in northern Queensland one of the worst culprits.

Queensland Environment Minister Steven Miles said Springvale contributed huge amounts of sediment run-off to the northern part of the Barrier Reef, the worst hit by

the bleaching caused by warming sea temperatures.

"Sediment and the attached nutrients have a range of impacts on the reef, so this 56,000 hectare land purchase was critical," he said after the government bought the property for Aus\$7 million (US\$5.2 million).

Run-off from the land carries sediment to the reef where it blocks light, smothers marine organisms and reduces coral and seagrass growth.

"We need to make sure the reef has the best chance to recover from this (bleaching) event by making sure water flowing from the catchments is as clean as possible," he added.

"That includes stepping up effective erosion control measures on the gullies and rivers in far northern Queensland."

The government said it planned to remove all cattle from Springvale before rehabilitating the land to reduce erosion.

Scientists have said parts of the 2,300-kilometre long reef will take at least a decade to recover, and the World Wide Fund for Nature said good water quality was key to its survival.

"Never before has a government bought land to protect the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef," said WWF-Australia spokesman Sean Hoobin in hailing the decision as "unprecedented".

"Large volumes of mud wash off this station and out into reef waters which stresses the coral."

"Action to reduce sediment pollution from Springvale will help the surviving coral to bounce back." — AFP

NYC lawmakers approve provision of free tampons

NEW YORK: New York City is on track to become the United States' first city to require free tampons and sanitary pads in public schools, homeless shelters and jails after lawmakers approved the idea on Tuesday amid a national discussion of the costs of having a period.

The proposal, which Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration supports, marks a new direction in activists' push to dismantle what they see as unfair financial barriers between women and needed sanitary products. New York state lawmakers voted last month to become the sixth state to eliminate sales tax on the items.

City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's proposal would make pads and tampons free in restrooms that serve 300,000 schoolgirls, and it would guarantee the products' availability to 23,000 women in homeless shelters and add the force of law to jail standards about sanitary supplies.

Supporters say New York would lead cities by having a law, rather than more changeable policies, in a wide range of locales.

"They're as necessary as toilet paper," so they ought to be just as freely accessible, Ferreras-Copeland, a Democrat, said before Tuesday's 49-0 vote.

During the discussion, the council's female speaker waved a wrapped tampon aloft in the spirit of bringing a once-taboo subject into the open. Even a male lawmaker who found the subject a bit uncomfortable praised the proposal.

It's unclear when the mayor will take up the measure, which would provide an estimated 2 million tampons and 3.5 million pads per year in shelters alone. Once dispensers are installed, it's expected to cost about \$2.5 million annually in the city's \$82 billion budget.

To some extent, schools, shelters and lockups in New York and elsewhere already provide the supplies for free. — AP

Jaguar used in Olympic torch relay shot dead after escape attempt

RISKY SHOW: A team poses with the Olympic torch next to jaguar Juma. — PHOTO: REUTERS

ready extinct in Uruguay and El Salvador.

animal was involved in the Olympic event.

"When will we learn? Wild animals held captive and forced to do things that are frightening, sometimes painful, and always unnatural are ticking time bombs — our actions put them and humans at risk," Brittany Peet, director of captive animal law enforcement at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), said in a statement.

In Brazil, the Rio de Janeiro-based animal rights group Animal Freedom Union asked the same question.

"When will people (and institutions) stop with this sick need to show power and control by confining, taming and showcasing wild animals?" it said on its Facebook page. — Reuters

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Facebook inks deals with celebrities

NEW YORK: In a move to popularise video streaming feature Facebook Live among its 1.65 billion users, the social networking giant has signed deals with nearly 140 media companies and celebrities to

create videos, media reports said on Wednesday.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Facebook will pay over \$50 million to video creators. Its partners include BuzzFeed, CNN, the New

York Times, Vox Media, Mashable, Huffington Post and celebrities like new-age guru Deepak Chopra, actor-comedian Kevin Hart and top chef Gordon Ramsay, among others. — IANS