

## NEARBY

**HC rejects plea against refixation of cops' salaries**

**NEW DELHI**  
 In a major boost to constables of the Delhi Police recruited before 2006, the High Court has dismissed the Centre's plea challenging a decision of a tribunal on the basis of which police personnel are seeking refixation of their salaries.

**DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1**

**Score 300+ in Sociology**  
 Video Lecture Series + booklets by **ILA TRIPATHI** (AIR 51)  
**BrainyIAS | 94504-00000**  
[order@brainyias.com](http://order@brainyias.com)

**DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES**

## Court questions press meet by police on activists' arrests

HC frowns on ADGP revealing details in sub judice case

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
 MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday was surprised to learn that the Maharashtra police had conducted a press conference on the arrest of five human rights activists accused of being a part of the Elgar Parishad and investigating the subsequent clashes at Bhima-Koregaon in December last year.

A division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and Mridula Bhatkar raised questions about Maharashtra Addi-

**How can the police do this?**  
 The matter is sub judice. The Supreme Court is seized of the matter. In such cases, revealing information pertaining to the case is wrong

BOMBAY HIGH COURT

tional Director General (Law and Order) Param Bir Singh reading out documents and letters, which could be used as evidence, at the August 31

press conference.

"How can the police do this? The matter is sub judice. The Supreme Court is seized of the matter. In such cases, revealing information pertaining to the case is wrong," the Bench said.

The court was hearing a petition filed by one Satish Gaikwad, seeking the transfer of the Bhima-Koregaon case from the Pune police to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10**

## It's celebration time



**Birthday boys:** Children of a prisoner serving a life term in the Bhopal Central Jail being taken by a prison official to take part in the Janmashtami celebrations on Monday. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

## Man hurls slipper at M.P. Chief Minister at rally

**ANUP DUTTA**  
 BHOPAL

A slipper was hurled at Shivraj Singh Chouhan at a public rally in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district on Sunday, with the footwear narrowly missing the Chief Minister.

The incident took place just when Mr. Chouhan was preparing to address the rally after welcoming dignitaries and local party leaders. A video footage of the incident has since gone viral on social media.

Though the identity of the man who hurled the slipper is not known, a senior police officer said it was the handiwork of some



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressing a rally at Sidhi on Sunday, when a slipper was hurled at him.

upper caste people who are protesting against the amendments to the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

It was the second attack on Mr. Chouhan in less than six hours on Sunday. Earlier

in the evening, a group of people pelted stones at his high-tech bus, modified as a chariot, near Patpata village in the same district.

"A group showed black flags to Mr. Chouhan when he arrived in Patpata. Some stones were also hurled at the bus, cracking a glass window. We have arrested nine persons in connection with the incident," said Churhat police inspector Ram Babu Choudhary.

Mr. Chouhan, touring the State ahead of the Assembly polls due later this year, blamed the opposition Congress on Monday for the attack on his vehicle, saying it is "thirsty for my blood".

Party leader takes offence to slogans

## Woman arrested for calling BJP govt. 'fascist'

STAFF REPORTER  
 THOOTHUKUDI

A woman research scholar was arrested on Monday for allegedly raising slogans against the "fascist" BJP government, when she ran into the party's State unit president, Tamilisai Soundararajan, on board a flight from Chennai to Thoothukudi.

Lois Sofia, 28, a research scholar at the University of Montreal, Canada, and a native of Thoothukudi, was picked up on the basis of a complaint lodged by Ms. Soundararajan. The two had travelled on the same flight from Chennai to Thoothukudi.

di in the afternoon.

Though a woman police officer and some co-passengers repeatedly requested Ms. Soundararajan to take a lenient view of the incident, considering that Ms. Sofia was a student, the BJP leader stood her ground.

According to the complaint, there were heated arguments between Ms. Sofia and Ms. Soundararajan, who was travelling to Tirunelveli district to attend a party event. Upon arriving at the Thoothukudi airport, the BJP leader alleged that the woman may have been the backer of an outlawed organisation.

## Kerala flood relief has a made-in Mumbai toy story

Group of Mazagon Dock officers take the lead in collecting toys for children in the State's anganwadis

**S. ANANDAN**  
 KOCHI

Along with roads, bridges, and houses, there was another set of 'assets' that the Kerala floods swept away: toys in the State's anganwadis. But toys, however, are not part of the materials being distributed in official rehabilitation efforts. So a group of officers from Mumbai's Mazagon Dock, a public sector shipyard, has been collecting toys for the flood-hit anganwadis.

Thanks to their goodwill, at least 100 anganwadis in



Ruth, Sree Lakshmi and Kesu with their new toys. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

public health centres with the support of the National Service Scheme volunteers from Mar Thoma College and cadets of the 15 Kerala NCC Battalion. "We

mobilised six tonnes of relief material, and cleaned 35 anganwadis, over a dozen schools, and three hospitals. When we went to clean the anganwadis, we realised that they had lost everything, including provisions and play things," Mr. Babu said.

### Gifts are on the way

Mr. Babu's team sought the support of the Army's Pune sub-area, the Army School at Ooty, and Toybank, an NGO. "The Pune sub-area is learnt to have dispatched about 5,000 toys. The

employees of Mazagon Dock are also collecting toys," he said. Toybank has set up donation boxes at Healthspring diagnostic centres across Mumbai. "We intend to send about 1,500 toys by Thursday," said Shweta Chari, founding chief executive of Toybank.

Sheela L., child development project officer of Veliyanad block, which has 105 anganwadis under it, said the floods happened just a day after the stores had been replenished. "We had no time to move anything," she said.

## Governor's office intervened to end J&K kidnap drama

It prevailed upon the police to release Hizbul Mujahideen commander's father



**In the line of fire:** Soldiers taking part in an operation against militants in Pulwama on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## Youth killed in firing

A youth was killed and another injured after security forces allegedly fired on protesters during clashes in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday. The deceased was identified as Fayaz Ahmad Wani.

**REPORT ▶ PAGE 10**

The official said Naikoo, now heading the Hizbul, suffered a blow when his deputy and field commander, Altaf Ahmed Dar alias Altaf Kachroo, one of the oldest surviving militants, was killed in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag on August 29.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10**

## Myanmar court jails reporters for 7 years

**REUTERS**

YANGON

A Myanmar judge on Monday found two Reuters journalists guilty of breaching a law on state secrets and jailed them for seven years, in a landmark case seen as a test of progress towards democracy in the Southeast Asian country.

Yangon northern district

judge Ye Lwin said Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, breached the colonial-era Official Secrets Act when they collected and obtained confidential documents.

"The defendants... have breached Official Secrets Act section 31.c, and are sentenced to seven years," the judge said.

**DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12**

## Cong., JD(S) to control 53% of Karnataka local bodies

**KARNATAKA BUREAU**

BENGALURU

Karnataka's ruling partners – the Janata Dal (S) and the Congress – have bagged more than 50% of the urban local bodies across 22 districts in the first test of popularity of the newly-formed coalition government in a boost ahead of next year's crucial Lok Sabha election.

While the Congress with 982 seats, emerged as the party with the largest number of winning candidates, it has also seen a slight decline in the number of seats compared to the 2013 polls in the same ULBs. The JD(S) has also seen a decline in the number of seats it had won from last time.

**DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 5**

## 2 NORTH



Ateli in Haryana is part of the 1,504-km western freight corridor from U.P. to Maharashtra; (right) sleepers stacked in Bhagga, Rajasthan, where construction is under way. ■ VIVEK TRIPATHI

## Ateli enters history on a freight train

The small town in Haryana marked the inauguration of the first stretch of the 3,360-km-long Dedicated Freight Corridor, touted as one of the biggest infrastructure projects in the country

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

ATELI Ateli, a small town in Haryana, etched its name in Indian Railways freight history with the flagging off of the inaugural freight train on the 3,360-km-long Dedicated Freight Corridor from here in August.

Ateli is not the starting point of the corridor, nor is it likely to be a major junction on that route. But it's the beginning of the only operational stretch of the freight corridor. The station before Ateli – Rewari, where track laying work is still on – is expected to be one of the main junctions. Rewari, about 30 km away from Ateli, also houses the Inland Container Depot of Container Corporation of India.

The first 190-km stretch of the Dedicated Freight Corridor – touted as one of the biggest infrastructure projects, at a cost of ₹81,459 crore, undertaken in India – from Ateli to Phulera in Rajasthan was opened on August 15.

The work to build the two dedicated freight corridors – the Eastern DFC (from

Punjab to West Bengal) and the Western DFC (from Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra) – is on in full swing. Over 98% of the land has been acquired and almost all contracts for projects, ranging from building of bridges to electrification, have been awarded.

While some train movement has started on the first opened section, any tangible benefit from the corridor will be seen only after completion of the 1,000-km rail track, an official of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India said.

**Weekly operations** Since the launch Ateli has seen about five-six double-stack trains, with one goods container stacked over another, pass through.

For now, the officials have been told that at least one train will pass from Ateli to Phulera every Sunday.

The DFCCIL official said that on the western corridor, the 29-km stretch from Rewari to Ateli and 215-km track from Phulera to Marwar (in Rajasthan) will open in December this year.

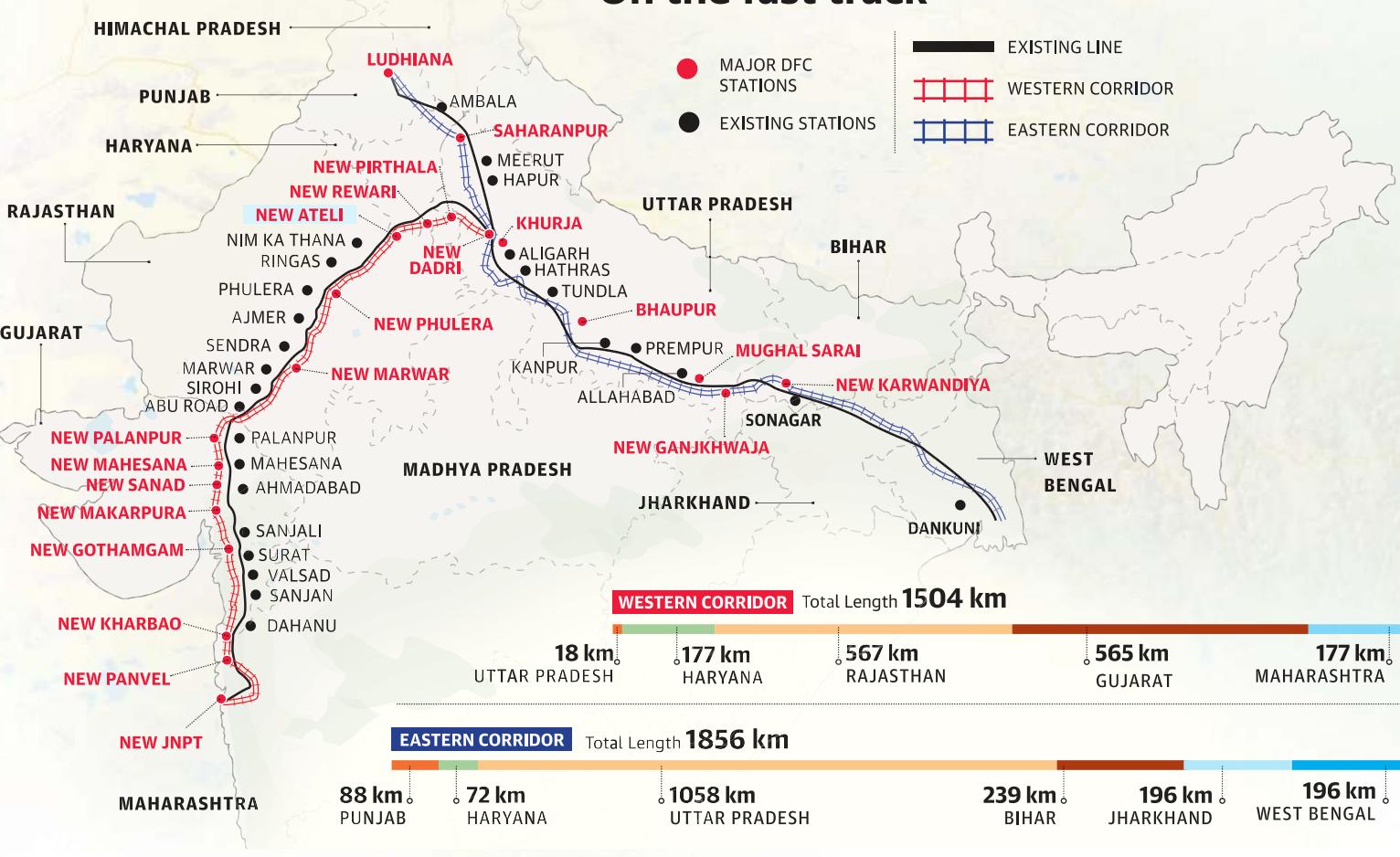
Meanwhile, the first 43-km

stretch in the eastern corridor from Khurja to Bhupur (both in Uttar Pradesh) will be opened in November 2018. The deadline to open the entire 3,360 km corridor is March 2020.

**Linked tracks** The rail tracks through the corridor mostly run parallel to the Indian Railways tracks, and the two have been interconnected at a distance of every 100-150 km. And even in the opened stretch, while the tracks are functional and the new stations built, the civil work, including building staff quarters and erecting pillars for electrification of tracks, is still on.

At Bhagga, Rajasthan, which also lies on the Ateli-Phulera route, the rails are being assembled and sleepers manufactured in a makeshift factory. The rails are being imported from Japan and being welded together.

The machines for making the sleepers are being used for the first time in India and are capable of manufacturing 400 sleepers at one time as opposed to four under the current system used by Indi-



### On the fast track

an Railways. Nearly 10 lakh sleepers have already been made at this factory. These are transported from Bhagga to neighbouring stations. The 180-km Ateli-Phulera stretch is part of the 1,504-km western freight corridor that will begin in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, and go up till the country's largest container port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, near Mumbai. In the process, the track will pass through dedicated stations

in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The 1,856-km eastern corridor will run from Ludhiana in Punjab to Dankuni near Kolkata, traversing Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Once the corridor becomes operational, freight trains will be able to run at a maximum speed of 100 km/hour as against the current maximum speed of 75 km/hour on the Indian Railways tracks. Consequently, the average speed of the freight trains will also increase from the existing 26 km/hour on Indian Railways lines to 70 km/hour in the dedicated freight corridors. Also, the goods train will run as per a set time table, much like the passenger trains.

**Game changer** The corridor is poised to become a game changer for the Indian Railways whose

share in freight logistics and transportation has been constantly declining due to competition from roads, and to some extent from waterways.

The share of Indian Railways in freight transportation has come down to 28% from 60% a few years ago.

According to a report by IBEF, around 1,107.10 million tonnes of freight was transported via trains in the financial year 2017 and 2,165 million tonnes is expected

to be transported in 2020. These include goods such as mineral ores, iron, steel, fertilisers, petrochemicals and agricultural produce.

Freight continues to remain the major revenue earning segment for Indian Railways, accounting for 64.32% of total revenues in the financial year 2017.

Profits from the freight segment are used to cross-subsidise the passenger segment, the IBEF pointed out in its report.

## Gehlot calls Raje's campaign 'helicopter yatra'

Says CM should apologise to people



Ashok Gehlot

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 29 26  
Safdarjung 29 26  
Palam 30 25

**Delhi Palam Today**  
30°C Moderate rain is expected. Light breeze is likely. A cloudy sky will persist. A pleasant day is likely.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2018  
All rights reserved.

**THE HINDU**

**DISCLAIMER:** Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD, Chennai, is the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper, and its agents, shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

**Curfew lifted in Rajasthan's Malpura**

Curfew has been lifted in violence-hit Malpura in Tonk district, police said Monday. Curfew was in force in the town since August 24, a day after some miscreants hurled stones on kanwariyas. PTI

## Another 'bandit queen' rises from Chambal's ravines

**ANUP DUTTA**  
Bhopal  
After Phoolan Devi, another woman bandit leader is striking terror in the ravines of Chambal.

Sadhna Patel (30), born in a village in Uttar Pradesh, is turning out to be another notorious outlaw from the Chambal region, spread across three States – Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

In the last few weeks, the gang led by Sadhna Jiji (a colloquial term for sister) has

been involved in several incidents of kidnapping, extortion, and armed robbery, prompting the Madhya Pradesh's Satna district police to announce a reward of ₹10,000 on her head.

"We decided to announce the reward after a case of abduction was registered against Sadhna Patel at Nayaagan police station," said Santosh Gaur, SP, Satna.

Sadhna and her gang members have been booked under IPC sections 364A, 342, 324, 149, 120B, section

## 13 killed as vehicle falls into gorge in Uttarkashi

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
DEHRADUN

Thirteen persons were killed and two others injured on Monday when a tempo fell into a 200-metre deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district following landslide.

The incident occurred at Shanghai on the Rishikesh-Gangotri highway when the tempo, carrying 15 passengers, was returning from Gangotri, District Disaster Management officer Devena Patwal said.

The vehicle fell into the

gorge as the driver lost control over it, following a landslide which brought a heap of debris on the road, he said.

The tempo landed just a few yards from the Bhagirathi river. All the 13 bodies, including three of women, have been recovered, the official said.

Two girls, aged 13 and 15 years, who were injured in the incident, have been referred from a district hospital Uttarkashi to a hospital in Dehradun, he said. All the victims were locals.

## MoU signed to give facelift to Ajmer dargah

To clean and manage the 13th-century shrine, a Swachh Iconic Place, ₹5.68 crore to be spent

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
JAIPUR

The historical dargah of Sufi mystic Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer is all set to get a facelift as a memorandum of understanding has been signed by the Dargah Committee, the Ajmer Municipal Corporation and Hindustan Zinc for spending ₹5.68 crore to clean and manage the shrine.

The 13th-century dargah has been included among the Swachh Iconic Places, a clean-up initiative focused on iconic heritage, spiritual

and cultural places through a multi-stakeholder approach model. The campaign was initiated under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in 2016. In Ajmer, the Collector will act as the project's nodal agency with the Dargah Committee and 'khadims' (workers) being the primary

stakeholders. An amount of ₹5.68 crore will be invested in the project's first phase for establishment of two flower compost making machines, cleaning and basic repair of the Jhalra pond, re-flooring in select areas, procurement of machines for cleaning the floors, risk management system plan, conservation of Shahjahani Gate and initial plans for Nizam Gate.

### More amenities

The MoU was signed in Ajmer on Saturday in the presence of Union Minister for

Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. Mr. Naqvi said the project would help in the dargah's upkeep and provide more facilities to the pilgrims coming during the Urs and in other seasons.

Two flower compost machines have already been installed in Kayad at a cost of ₹27 lakh for churning out about 25 kg of compost from 100 kg of flowers offered at the dargah. A vision document for the shrine has been prepared by a team of architects and building plan and design consultants.

Published by N. Ravikasturi, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD, Chennai-600002. Editor: Mukund Padmanabhan (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).

THE HINDU NOIDA/DELHI  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

EAST 3

## IN BRIEF



CPI(M) rally to protest arrest of partymen

KOLKATA  
CPI(M) activists on Monday staged a rally in North 24 Parganas district to protest the arrest of party workers for their alleged involvement in the killing of TMC workers in Amdanga area. The party called for "gherao of Amdanga Police station" to protest arrest of "innocent" CPI(M) activists. PTI

**Odisha lawyers' strike enters sixth day**

CUTTACK  
The strike by lawyers of Cuttack city entered the sixth day on Monday, hampering judicial activities in all courts, tribunals as well as Orissa High Court. The lawyers are abstaining from judicial work in courts in Cuttack city as part of their agitation. PTI

**Man held for allegedly raping daughter**

TURA (MEGHALAYA)  
A man was arrested on the charge of raping his 10-year-old daughter in West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, police said Monday. Though the alleged incident had taken place late last month, her mother lodged a complaint on Sunday and he was taken into custody, Superintendent of Police Dr M.G.R. Kumar said. PTI

**Doctors demand action against police officer**

KOLKATA  
Six doctors' organisation Monday said that they would stop all work at the OPD section of private hospitals in West Bengal if no action was taken against the police officer who had allegedly assaulted a junior doctor at a city hospital. PTI

**HC orders CID to file probe report**

KOLKATA  
The Calcutta High Court Monday directed the CID to file a report in a month on the progress of probe into the extortion case against former IPS officer Bharati Ghosh and the alleged involvement of her husband M.A.V. Raju in it. PTI

# 'Ayushman Bharat Mission incomplete without Odisha'

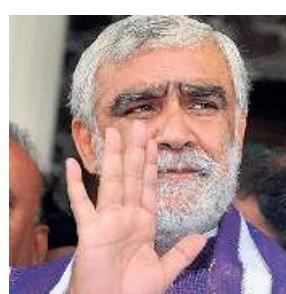
Union Minister nudges CM, who floated a parallel scheme, to join it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BALASORE (ODISHA)

The Centre on Monday urged the Odisha government to become a part of Ayushman Bharat, saying the flagship health insurance scheme launched last month would remain incomplete if it did not do so. The State is yet to join the Central health scheme.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had rejected the Centre's proposal to join the Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission and launched its own health scheme called the 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana' to cover about 3.5 crore people of nearly 70 lakh families.

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey, who was here for the inauguration of the Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospi-



Union MoS for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey. ■



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

tal, said, "Unless Odisha became part of the Ayushman Bharat, the programme would remain incomplete. Therefore, I urged the Odisha government to accept it."

Mr. Choubey, however, said there is nothing wrong in the State's own scheme, but Odisha should also become part of Ayushman Bharat to make it complete as well as provide better health

assurance provision for the poor and needy people.

"I congratulate the Chief Minister for the State's own scheme. But the State should also take advantage of Ayushman Bharat," the Union Minister said.

The State had rejected the Ayushman scheme primarily because the Health Ministry put a condition to limit the number of beneficiaries to 61 lakh families.

## Medical college inaugurated

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

Three days after inaugurating the Bhima Bhoi Medical College in Balangir, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital in Balasore to the people of the State on Monday.

FMMC is the seventh institute offering MBBS programme. Five more medical colleges are in different stages of completion.

"Odisha has scripted a new chapter in the health sector. In 2000, the total number of MBBS seats was 321. It has now reached 1,050," Mr. Patnaik said.

# 5 missing in Assam river mishap, Navy team arrives

Car plunged into the Dikhow river after driver lost control

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

A 10-member diving team from the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam reached eastern Assam's Sivasagar town to help in the ongoing operation to locate a family of five that went missing after their vehicle plunged into the Dikhow river on September 1.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, supervising the rescue operation, had sought naval help via the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs, although a rescue team comprising the Army and disaster response forces have been searching for the vehicle and its occupants.

The naval team arrived with diving equipment, inflatable boats and side scan sonar aboard an IAF aircraft that landed at the Jorhat air base from where it proceeded



Rescue teams at the accident site. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ed to Sivasagar by road. The team would be conducting search operation on Tuesday morning.

**'Car was speeding'**

Eyewitnesses said the car, moving at high speed, fell into the river after the driver lost control. The five occupants of the car were identified as Haren Bora, his mother Phunu Bora, wife Punou Bora, and daughters Simpi and Mummi Bora.

"A 44-member team of National Disaster Response Force team, a 30-member State Disaster Response Force team from three districts, a 14-member Para (Special Force) and five members from the Civil Defence have been at work using 10 boats," a Sivasagar district official said.

# Monsoon session of Odisha Assembly begins today

Government to present supplementary budget

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

The monsoon session of the Odisha Assembly is scheduled to begin here from Tuesday.

The session will continue till September 20 and have 11 working days.

The House will pay tributes to the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who passed away recently, on the opening day.

The supplementary budget was to be presented during the winter session of the Assembly. The State government, however, has decided to present the supplementary budget in the monsoon session to allocate funds for a host of populist schemes announced by it in the recent months.



Police officers inspecting Assembly security on Monday. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

tion parties, the Congress and the BJP, said that they would raise issues such as unemployment, corruption and farmers' problems in the monsoon session.

The Congress has already identified issues like non-payment of insurance money to farmers, the BJD's efforts to set up a Vidhan Parishad without taking Opposition parties into confidence, while the BJP would raise issues such as percentage commission in government offices, farmers' problems and alleged hijacking of central schemes by the state government.

"We will raise unemployment problem in a big way," Leader of Opposition Narasingha Mishra of the Congress said.

Meanwhile, the Opposi-

With PTI inputs

## 'Greenland'



A farmer spraying pesticides on a paddy field on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar on Monday. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

# Manipur University Vice-Chancellor asked to stay away from campus

Leave extended until completion of inquiry proceedings against him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

A crisis on the Manipur University campus was averted on Monday with Registrar in-charge S. Dorendrajit Singh issuing an order extending the leave of embattled Vice-Chancellor Adya Prasad Pandey's leave from September 1 "until the completion of inquiry proceedings against him and until necessary follow-up action taken on the inquiry report".

Mr. Pandey, who had gone on a month's leave from August 2 following a prolonged agitation by students, teach-

ers and non-teaching staff seeking his ouster, had taken charge on September 1. Moments later, he issued an order banning the Manipur University Teachers' Association and Manipur University Staff Association, citing the rules of the Manipur University Act of 2005.

Manipur University is a Central university under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Members of MUSA, MUSA and Manipur University Students' Union had met on Sunday and threatened to re-launch the agitation that was

suspended after the MHRD and the State government had on August 16 decided to form a fact-finding panel to probe the allegations of administrative and financial irregularities against him.

**'Charges baseless'**  
Mr. Pandey, who joined as V-C of the university in December 2016, dismissed the charges as baseless.

"All organisations of the university and leaders of civil societies beyond the campus had a meeting today (Monday) wherein it was resolved that Mr. Pandey

should stay away from the campus as long as the probe panel takes to investigate the charges against him. We also declared that the banning of MUSA and MUSA by him was null and void," said L. Sanju, general secretary of MUSA.

Mr. Sanju also said the university's Chancellor (Governor Najma Heptulla) instructed the Registrar in-charge to ensure the V-C stays away from the campus until cleared of the charges.

Mr. Pandey had on Sunday said he rejoined because the fact-finding committee was yet to start its probe.

## Mamata on 3-day visit to Darjeeling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday left for a three-day visit to Darjeeling hills where she is scheduled to take part at several meetings on development works and inaugurate a university, State Secretariat sources said.

Ms. Banerjee is scheduled to hold an administrative review meeting with members of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, she will attend a programme to celebrate the Teachers' Day to be held at the Mall in Darjeeling.

# Three raped after being drugged

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAGAON

Three women members of a family were allegedly raped by a man who forced them to drink drug-laced fruit juice before committing the crime in Assam's Hojai district, police said on Monday.

The man was known to them as he lived in the same village as them and the incident took place on the intervening night between Saturday and Sunday at their home, the victims said in their complaint to the police.

The alleged accused is absconding, the police said.

Meanwhile, the police have apprehended six persons who were allegedly involved in the gang-rape of a woman near Amoni in Nagaon district on August 28 night.

# Relief rice sweetens festival in Nagaland district

Kiphire has been cut off due to landslides caused by incessant heavy rainfall

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Seven truckloads of PDS rice received in the nick of time has sweetened a tribal festival in Nagaland's Kiphire district that has been cut off due to landslides caused by incessant heavy rainfall.

Mongmong is a major festival of the Sangtams, the largest of the three principal tribes in Kiphire district bordering Myanmar. It is celebrated from September 1-6 every year as a festival of togetherness, forgiveness and prayer for a bountiful harvest.

A tough monsoon made one of the most precious commodities - rice - scarce. Procuring rice had been an uphill task because a 300-metre stretch of the arterial road from Nagaland's commercial hub Dimapur to Ki-



Cheer amid gloom: Rice being distributed in Kiphire town of Nagaland. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

bh rationed, for us. This has really brightened up the festival that appeared to have been doomed earlier," R. Tsithongse Sangtam, general secretary of United Sangtam Likhum Punji (apex organi-

sation of the Sangtam tribe) told *The Hindu*.

Each of the days of Mongmong festival has a special significance, but Monday was the most important day, Mr. Sangtam said.

Kiphire Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Ali Shihab said distribution of rice started on September 1 in the district headquarters. Relief had also been distributed to all the subdivisions for serving the villages.

"The distribution of rice in measured quantities to every household was done in the district headquarters through the 11 ward commissioners," Mr. Shihab said, adding that 200 bags of rice have been stocked at the district headquarters for emergency. Each of the eight subdivisions in the district have also stocked 50-100 rice

bags.

The Nagaland government has said roads at 359 locations across the State have been cut off due to rain-induced landslides. Since July, at least 12 people have lost their lives while more than 3,000 have been displaced.

**Worst affected districts**

Apart from Kiphire, the worst affected districts are Tuensang and Phek.

These two districts adjoin

Kiphire, where Saramati, Nagaland's highest peak, is situated.

"We need at least Rs. 800

crore for restoration of the damage caused by landslides and floods," a government spokesperson said.

Floods have happened mainly in Dimapur and adjoining low-lying areas. The Nagaland beyond is hilly.



**Drumming up support:** Protestors seeking the release of Sudhir Dhawale who was arrested from his residence. ■ FILE PHOTO

## ANATOMY OF A CLASH

**DECEMBER 31, 2017:** Elgar Parishad organised by retired Justices P.B. Sawant and B.G. Kolse Patil held at Shaniwarwada in Pune, where MLA Jignesh Mevani, Umar Khalid, Radhika Vemula, Soni Sori and others speak.

**JANUARY 1, 2018:** 200th anniversary of the battle at Koregaon-Bhima. Nearly four lakh people gather at the historic venue. Violence takes place leading to the death of one person.

**JANUARY 2, 2018:** Maharashtra bandh declared by several Dalit outfits with marches, rasta rokos and rail rokos organised across the state.

**JANUARY 3, 2018:** FIR names Sambhaji Bhide and Milind Ekbote as key accused behind the January 1 violence. They are accused of

**MAY 17, 2018:** Unlawful Atrocities Prevention Act (UAPA) is introduced into FIR 4/18.

instigating violence and delivering inflammatory speeches.

**JANUARY 4, 2018:** FIR filed against Jignesh Mevani, MLA, and Umar Khalid for delivering provocative speeches at Elgar Parishad.

**JANUARY 8, 2018:** FIR 4/18 filed by Ramesh Damgude against Sudhir Dhawale and five others of 'Kabir Kala Manch'. No one is arrested at the time.

**MARCH 6, 2018:** Charge of conspiracy is added to FIR 4/18 and includes Advocate Surendra Gadling and Rona Wilson as suspected accused.

**MARCH 14, 2018:** Milind Ekbote is arrested after Supreme Court rejects anticipatory bail, upholding Pune sessions court and the Bombay High Court decisions.

**APRIL 19, 2018:** Milind Ekbote

granted bail by Pune district and sessions court.

**JUNE 6, 2018:** Arrest of Shoma Sen, Advocate Gadling, Rona Wilson, Mahesh Raut and Sudhir Dhawale under FIR 4/18. The remaining five continue to be charged but are not arrested.

**JUNE 15, 2018:** State government appoints Justice JN Patil commission to inquire into the violence. The commission's first sitting to take place in the first week of September.

**AUGUST 10, 2018:** Three people with alleged links to Sanatan Sanstha arrested. A large cache of arms and explosives is seized.

**AUGUST 18, 2018:** Interrogation of the accused

with alleged links to Sanatan Sanstha leads to the arrest of Sachin Andure for his role in Dr. Narendra Dabholkar's murder.

**AUGUST 28, 2018:** Raids take place at Mumbai, Thane, Delhi, Jharkhand, Goa and Hyderabad. Vernon Gonsalves, Arun Ferreira, Varavara Rao, Sudha Bharadwaj and Gautam Navlakha are arrested.

**AUGUST 29, 2018:** Supreme Court grants interim relief to the five accused to be under house arrest until September 6.

**AUGUST 30, 2018:** Petition filed for Sambhaji Bhide's arrest filed in Bombay High Court.

**AUGUST 31, 2018:** Maharashtra police conducts a press conference and states it has "conclusive evidence" including letters linking the arrested activists to Maoist organisations and an assassination plot on the Prime Minister.

**SEPTEMBER 2:** A special court on Sunday grants Pune police a 90-day extension for filing a charge sheet against the five activists arrested on June 6.

**SEPTEMBER 3:** Bombay High Court expresses surprise that the State government allowed the police to hold a press conference and directs the police to not do so again.

COMPILER BY AJEET MAHALE



**AUGUST 29, 2018:** Supreme Court grants interim relief to the five accused to be under house arrest until September 6.

**AUGUST 30, 2018:** Petition filed for Sambhaji Bhide's arrest filed in Bombay High Court.

**AUGUST 31, 2018:** Maharashtra police conducts a press conference and states it has "conclusive evidence" including letters linking the arrested activists to Maoist organisations and an assassination plot on the Prime Minister.

**SEPTEMBER 2:** A special court on Sunday grants Pune police a 90-day extension for filing a charge sheet against the five activists arrested on June 6.

**SEPTEMBER 3:** Bombay High Court expresses surprise that the State government allowed the police to hold a press conference and directs the police to not do so again.



ARRESTS MADE ON AUGUST 28



VARAVARA RAO



SUDHA BHARADWAJ

GAUTAM NAVLAKHA

ARUN FERREIRA

VERNON GONSALVES

COMPILER BY AJEET MAHALE

# PMC is 'distorting' facts on Ganesh festival: Trust

Says lines crediting Bhau Rangari for first public festivities deleted from website

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

With Ganpati festival round the corner, the hair-splitting over who organised the first public festivities – the 19<sup>th</sup> century physician Bhau Laxman Javale or freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar 'Lokmanya' Tilak – threatens to mar the upcoming festive occasion.

Last week, the Bhaurangi Ganpati trust, which has been fighting to reclaim the memory of Bhausaheb Javale, lodged a complaint against Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) with the cyber cell of the Pune police, accusing it of "attempting to distort history" and "suppress the truth" about the first 'Sarvanik Ganeshotsav'.

"We came to know that the PMC, on its website, had credited Bhau Rangari with starting the first celebration of Ganeshotsav in Pune in 1892. Bhau Rangari, who was an ayurvedic medical practitioner, kept his Ganesh idol open to public because religious gatherings were allowed for exchange of ideas and information."

However, hours after the screenshots of the PMC website (under its panel titled 'rich legacy'), before it allegedly altered the entry about Bhau Rangari states:

"Bhau Rangari (popular name for Bhausaheb Javale) started the first celebration of Ganeshotsav in Pune in 1892. On August 24, at a meeting of major Ganeshas pandals in the city at the PMC, we duly thanked the



Bhaurangi Ganpati Trust has not got any response from the Mayor. ■ FILE PHOTO

started the first celebration of Ganeshotsav in Pune in 1892. Bhau Rangari, who was an ayurvedic medical practitioner, kept his Ganesh idol open to public because religious gatherings were allowed for exchange of ideas and information."

However, hours after the screenshots of the PMC website (under its panel titled 'rich legacy'), before it allegedly altered the entry about Bhau Rangari states:

"Bhau Rangari (popular name for Bhausaheb Javale) started the first celebration of Ganeshotsav in Pune in 1892. On August 24, at a meeting of major Ganeshas pandals in the city at the PMC, we duly thanked the

Ms. Tilak, who has maintained a stony silence on the matter, claimed to have no knowledge of the information [crediting Bhau Laxman Javale with starting the first public Ganeshas festivities] having been uploaded on the PMC's website.

"When we questioned the PMC's IT cell head, we were told that the information was uploaded from the civic body's website section. Changes to the website can only be made on the orders of the District Collector and not any other authority like the Mayor. We have accordingly sent letters to the Collector and the Pune Police Commissioner of Police and other authorities concerning this deliberate distortion of facts," said Mr. Renuse.

Last year, the trust was locked in bitter wrangling with the PMC over its plans to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ganesh festival, which was popularised by Bal Gangadhar 'Lokmanya' Tilak.

## Dismiss Parrikar govt.: Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PANAJI

The Congress in Goa said there was a constitutional break down in the State due to the absence of the Chief Minister and demanded immediate removal of President's rule.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress House, chief spokesperson and former Union Law Minister Ramakant Khalap said there is no government in existence in Goa and democracy requires a stable government led by Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar. Besides Mr. Parrikar, several ministers were away for medical

treatment, leading to a Constitutional deadlock.

At one stage Mr. Khalap said, "the failure of the constitutional machinery, leads to only one thing: dismissal of the government, taking over of the government."

Calling the present situation in the State a "failure of Constitutional machinery," Mr. Khalap, in reply to a question also said that once this government is dismissed, the democratic process will come into play and the Congress as the largest party in the Assembly will not lack in responding to the situation.

Mr. Khalap said, "Let the Chief Minister who is away in U.S. for treatment at least nominate a deputy CM or Minister-in-charge as over 80% of the State budget is concentrated in the hands of unwell Chief Minister and Ministers. If that is absent, we request and we demand the Governor must withdraw her pleasure in this Council of Ministers and dismiss the government rightaway."

"While we all have been and continue to pray for fitness and good health of all the Ministers, including the CM, Congress cannot sit idle and watch the helplessness of the people of Goa," remarked Goa Congress general secretary and spokesperson Adv. Yatish Naik. Listing several serious issues presently plaguing the State of Goa, Mr. Khalap said, "We have issues like formalin used in preserving fish, the continued closure of mining, unemployment, and all the cascading effect on the economy, the decision of the Interstate Water Dispute Tribunal of Mahadai, which permits Karnataka to divert 4 TMC of water to Karnataka, and CRZ violations, which the Council of Ministers has to discuss and address."

THE HINDU NOIDA/DELHI  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

## IN BRIEF



## Last Nizam's lunchbox goes missing

**HYDERABAD** The last Nizam's lunchbox is missing, and it is bad news for the Nizam's Museum at Purani Haveli here. The stolen box was five-tier, made of gold, and antique — hence invaluable. The thieves even got away with a tea-cup, saucer, and teaspoon of 'pure' gold that were placed close to the tiffin box on Sunday night.

## Police launch hunt for vigilantes in Kerala

**MALAPPURAM** The police have launched a hunt for half-a-dozen people involved in the detention, assault and spreading of images of Mohammed Sajid, 24, who committed suicide at his house near Kottakkal last Friday. He was beaten up and humiliated by a crowd after having been found in suspicious circumstances.

## Cong, JD(S) set to control 53 % of local bodies

Victory of ruling coalition in Karnataka gains significance ahead of the crucial Lok Sabha poll that will be held next year

## KARNATAKA BUREAU

Karnataka's ruling partners — the Janata Dal (Secular) and the Congress — have bagged more than 50% of the urban local bodies (ULBs) across 22 districts in the first test of popularity of the newly-formed coalition government in a boost ahead of next year's crucial Lok Sabha election.

While the Congress with 982 seats, emerged as the party with the largest number of winning candidates, it has also seen a slight decline in the number of seats compared to the 2013 polls in the same ULBs. The JD(S) has also seen a decline in the number of seats it had won from last time, down to 375 with a concentration in southern Karnataka.

## BJP's gains

In terms of the number of seats, the bigger gains are with the BJP, which has won



**Impressive show:** Congress workers celebrating their party's victory in the Karnataka urban local bodies election in Mysuru on Monday. ■ PTI

929 seats, a stark increase from 2013, when the party was coming from a massive defeat in the Assembly polls coupled with its various factions contesting the polls separately and fragmenting votes.

Of the 105 local bodies, in-

cluding three city corporations (Mysuru, Tumakuru and Shivamogga), the Congress captured power in 31 City Municipal Councils (CMCs), Town Municipal Councils and Town Panchayats. It is also set to rule in at least 13 TMCs and

CMCs, and two city corporations, Mysuru and Tumakuru, with its alliance partners.

Additionally, in Ranebennur, the Congress is expected to stake claim for power with the KPJP. The JD(S), which traditionally has its base in the Cauvery basin

## BJP's best-ever performance

## B.S. SATISH KUMAR

BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has finished a close second with its tally of 929 wards in the urban local bodies (ULBs) elections in Karnataka. This is the best-ever performance of the saffron party in the ULB elections in the State. In terms of absolute numbers, the party is short of about 150 wards when compared to its peak performance in 2007, when elections were held to all the ULBs. But now, polls to

ULBs in eight districts are yet to be held. Despite a decent performance, the party is not devoid of concern, as the results have shown that the partnership between the Congress and the JD (Secular) can swing the political balance.

BJP State president B. S. Yeddyurappa described the party's performance in the local polls as "impressive". "We have substantially increased our tally in hundreds of ULBs across the State," he said.

districts, has won 12 ULBs.

These combinations, together, put the alliance success in the polls at around 53% of the total local bodies that had gone to polls.

While both the Congress and the JD(S) fought the polls on a "friendly" note, leaders

of both parties have already indicated that they will be in an alliance in ULBs that have thrown up a fractured mandate.

The opposition BJP has captured power in 27 ULBs, including the Shivamogga City Corporation.

## Five Dalits attacked at festival

## STAFF REPORTER

TUMAKURU

Five Dalit youth were allegedly attacked by members of a dominant caste for requesting that they be served food along with others at the village deity's festival, Parevu, in Haridasanahalli in Turuvekere taluk of Tumakuru district.

In their statement to the police, Rudranarasimha, Ravichandra D.K., Srinivas, Shankar, and Govindaraju said that on Saturday the people distributing arecanut leaf plates refused to serve them, and asked them to move to another row. This was the third time they were allegedly asked to change rows. They told the dominant caste villagers that they would not move again.

The argument quickly turned into a brawl, and one of the attackers, Naiveen, allegedly poured hot sambar on the men.

## Kerala needs ₹30,000 cr.: Minister

State launches Nava Kerala special lottery to raise funds for restoration

## STAFF REPORTER

ALAPPUZHA

Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac has said that ₹30,000 crore would be needed to rebuild the flood-ravaged State.

He was speaking at the launch of the Nava Kerala special lottery here on Monday.

"A sum of ₹20,000 crore is required for the reconstruction of bridges, buildings, bunds, and houses and to provide compensation to farmers and others. Another ₹10,000 crore is needed for livelihood assistance. The State government will have to find ₹6,000 crore through



Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac launching the 'Nava Kerala' special lottery by handing over a ticket to Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala in Alappuzha on Monday.

various means. The Nava Kerala lottery is one of the measures to raise funds," Dr. Isaac said.

Public Works Minister G. Sudhakaran, who presided over the function, said the government would be able

to raise ₹750 crore if people of the State bought at least one lottery ticket each.

The special lottery, aimed at mobilising funds for flood relief operations in the State, was launched by Dr. Isaac by handing over a lottery ticket to Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala.

The price of a ticket is ₹250 and the government expects a net profit of ₹85 crore from ticket sales.

## Draw of lots

The draw of lots will be held on October 3. Officials said there would be 90 first prizes of ₹1 lakh and ₹5,000 on 1,08,000 tickets.

## Gait nails Waghmore as Gauri killer

SIT matches CCTV clips of murder with reconstructed crime scene footage

## K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ

BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) received a shot in the arm with forensic evidence now pinning down Parashuram Waghmore as the gunman who killed journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh on September 5, 2017. Forensic Gait Analysis by the Directorate of Forensic Science, Gujarat, compared CCTV clips of the assassination — which showed the shooter in the frame for six seconds — with footage of the SIT's reconstruction of the crime.

After he allegedly com-



fessed to being the gunman, the police reconstructed the murder with Waghmore, and sent the video clip to the FLS lab. The report conclud-

ed that "the persons in the two videos are one and the same with probable identity."

According to SIT officials, Forensic Gait Analysis, was first used in the U.K. around 18 years ago and is now widely used as an aid for criminal investigations across the world. However, this is likely to be the first time the technique has been used as evidence in India. A subset of Forensic Podiatry, it matches body movement patterns of people in two videos to determine whether they are one and the same.

"The report says probable

## Mother held for killing newborn

## STAFF REPORTER

MALAPPURAM

The police arrested a woman for killing her newborn baby at Cheroor, Koottilangadi, near here on Monday.

The police said Nabeela, 30, murdered her child by slitting the baby's neck following pressure from her brother Shihab, who was also arrested. Nabeela, a divorcee, has two children. She gave birth to another baby a few days ago. The police said her brother had harassed her over her pregnancy out of wedlock and coerced her to do the crime.

Dy.SP Jaleel Thottathil said a detailed investigation was needed in the case. He said Shihab was being questioned. Nabeela was admitted to hospital.

## + Kerala Tourism begins aggressive marketing drive

Launches campaign to promote State as safe after floods

## S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With barely weeks to go before the peak tourist season begins, Kerala Tourism has launched a campaign on social media to project the destination as 'safe' for visitors.

The campaign, Sun is Out, will be intensified on the digital platform since the key destinations of Alappuzha, Munnar, Thekkady and Wayanad, among the worst hit in the recent floods, have been declared as 'safe' to travel and stay for tourists' by the respective District Collectors.

To increase tourist footfall, the department would focus on the Jayatru Nature Park along M.C. Road at Chadayamangalam and on the Neelakurinji that has blos-

somed on the slopes of Munnar after 12 years, Director of Tourism P. Bal Kiran said.

## Travel Mart

"We are planning a national campaign to promote Kerala as a safe place to travel and stay. This is likely to be launched before or along with the four-day Kerala Travel Mart that begins in Kochi on September 27, World Tourism Day," he said.

Over 1,000 people from the domestic and international tourism circuit will reach Kochi for the KTM and there have been no cancellations so far.

The Director said initial estimates had put the loss due to the monsoon fury to the tourism industry at ₹2,000 crore. There were

many cancellations for July, August and September. The only solace was the inflow of beach tourists and those who came for wellness and Ayurvedic therapy.

"Through aggressive marketing, we should hold on to the bookings in October and on winter bookings that will commence in Europe soon," said Anish Kumar P.K., president of Association of Travel Trade Organisations (ATTTO), India.

ATTO will come up with a video featuring the rescue and rehabilitation work carried out by the tourism industry in key destinations during floods.

"We will invite influential travellers to visit the State and to tell the world their experience," he said.

## A train with a view



**Feast for the eyes:** Tourists enjoying the view from large windows of the vistadome coach on the way to Araku Valley in Visakhapatnam district. The coach is getting an overwhelming patronage since its introduction on April 16, 2017 ■ K.R. DEEPAK

## Andhra Pradesh wildlife authorities swing into action on killing of snakes

23 poisonous snakes killed, 47 released on Diviseema island, says MDO

## STAFF REPORTER

MACHILIPATNAM

The Wildlife Department has asked the district authorities to submit a report on the killing of snakes in Diviseema island in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh since August 24.

The direction is in response to the article 'Exercise to rid Diviseema island of snakes begins' published in *The Hindu* on August 29.

A special team of snake catchers was deployed by the district authorities to catch the snakes in the villages in the wake of the rising number of the bite cases in August.

Koduru MDO B. Venkateswara Reddy confirmed that 23 poisonous snakes had been killed and 47 released on the outskirts of the three



Forest authorities creating awareness of snakebite cases and first aid methods in Diviseema Island. ■ T. APPALA NAIDU

villages — Viswanathapalli, Pittallanka and V. Kothapalem in Koduru mandal — between August 24 and 29.

"Krishna Collector [B. Lakshmi Kantam] and the

authorities monitoring the exercise have been informed about the conservatory measures of snakes. The killings violate the Wildlife Protection Act 1972," Chief Wildlife

Lakshmi Kantam has directed the officials concerned not to kill any snake in the island.

According to the recommendation of the National

## Draft charter of Patients' Rights released

Emergency medical care, alternative treatment options figure on it

## AFSHAN YASMEEN

BENGALURU

If the draft Charter of Patients' Rights released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare comes into force, patients will not just have the right to emergency medical care and informed consent, but will also have the right to non-discrimination, seek a second opinion and choose alternative treatment options, if available.

The draft, prepared by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), has been put up on the Health Ministry's website on August 30 for comments and suggestions. According to a notice issued by Joint Secretary Sudhir Kumar, the Ministry plans to implement the Charter of Patients' Rights through State governments for provision of proper health care by clinical establishments.

According to the recommenda-

Council of Clinical Establishments, a statutory body under Clinical Establishments Act, comments /suggestions on the draft can be forwarded to Dr. Anil Kumar, Addl. DDG, Dte.GHS, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Room No.560-A, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110108 or by email to help.ceact2010@nic.in by September 30.

Abhay Shukla, one of the national conveners of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (a people's health movement), who was involved with the NHRC in drafting the document as a member of its core group on health, said there was a need for a consolidated comprehensive document on patient rights in India. "Although some States have adopted the national Clinical Establishments Act 2010 and certain others have enacted their own State-level legisla-

tion for consolidated comprehensive document on patient rights

ABHAY SHUKLA

A national convener of the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan

make these rights functional and enforceable by law. The onus is now on the States to follow the charter effectively," Dr. Shukla said.

Sylvia Karpagam, a public health doctor and researcher, pointed out that the controversial Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act that had initially included various rights for patients was watered down subsequently. "Right to non-discrimination is an important right. Every patient has the right to receive treatment without any discrimination based on his or her illnesses or conditions, including HIV status or other health condition, religion, caste, ethnicity or sexual orientation," she said.

Quoting the Charter, she said: "Now, the hospital management has a duty to ensure that no form of discriminatory behaviour or treatment takes place with any person under the hospital's care."

A.N.D.-NDE

## IN BRIEF



## New domestic terminal building inaugurated

LUCKNOW  
Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu on Monday inaugurated the new domestic terminal building at Gorakhpur Airport along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister flagged off the IndiGo Gorakhpur-Delhi-Gorakhpur flight. PTI

## Three killed as tipper lorry overturns in H.P.

SHIMLA  
Three persons were killed when the tipper lorry they were travelling in overturned on Koti Utra Road, near the Uttarakhand border in Shillong tehsil of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district, the police said Monday. The incident occurred on Sunday night. All the deceased were from Ashyari village. PTI

## Body of woman found with throat slit

LAKHISARAI  
A woman has been found dead with her throat slit at a forest area in Bihar's Lakhisarai district, the police said Monday. The deceased, identified as Basanti Devi (25), was a resident of Rajaghat Kol village in the district. Sub-Divisional Police Officer Manish Kumar said. Her husband, Umesh Paswan, is currently lodged in jail in connection with a criminal case, he said. PTI

## 11 arrested for 'leaking' question papers

LUCKNOW  
The Uttar Pradesh police has arrested 11 persons for their alleged roles in the leakage of questions papers for tube well operators recruitment tests, which was to be held by the U.P. Subordinate Services Selection Commission on Sunday. All the arrests were made on Sunday by the Special Task Force in Mewat. PTI

# Bamboo centre remains 'rooted' to New Delhi

Five years after its creation, NECTAR yet to shift to Shillong headquarters

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

A centre for taking India's bamboo mission forward has failed to shift from New Delhi to its 'headquarters' in Meghalaya capital Shillong to cater to the largest bamboo-growing region in the country.

The Central government had in 2013 approved the creation of an autonomous society registered and headquartered in Shillong with a fund allocation of ₹292 crore. The society was called North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach.

Though NECTAR acquired two spaces in Shillong – one a seven-room guesthouse and the other a small office near the landmark Bethany



Hospital – it has continued to function from the office of the Department of Science and Technology.

In May, NECTAR's Director General Baldev Singh Rawat had said the Shillong unit of Central Public Works Department was expected to ready the society's office in the space provided by the Survey of India within three

months.

"We have not been able to stick to that time frame because the CPWD has not started work. We will shift to Shillong as soon as everything is ready," Mr. Rawat told *The Hindu* on Monday.

## An excuse'

The Bamboo Industries Association of India said this could be an excuse for NECTAR officials to remain rooted to New Delhi, having already completed six years there without serving the purpose – to facilitate bamboo growers and entrepreneurs.

"Operating a guesthouse with seven big rooms is not very important. It can easily be converted to an office if there is intent. Without com-

ing close to the resources and people it was created for, NECTAR seems to be going the way of its predecessor, the NBMA (National Mission on Bamboo Application)," Rajib Goswami, BIAF's president, said.

The DST had in 2004 launched the NBMA with an outlay of ₹200 crore.

In almost a decade since, the NBMA spent ₹100 crore on building demo bamboo houses that hardly impacted lives across India's bamboo belts, particularly the Northeast that grows 67% of India's bamboos.

Bamboo entrepreneurs said the NBMA, contrary to its name, neither developed any technology nor facilitated technology transfer for 385 units it assisted.

## Odisha parties woo migrant labourers in Surat

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

Ahead of the Odisha Assembly polls, the Biju Janata Dal and the BJP have started making efforts to woo Odia migrant labourers in Gujarat's Surat.

Most of these labourers are either voters in Odisha or have close relatives back home. According to an estimate, there are around 12 lakh Odia workers in Surat, who work in textile, gemstone and other industries.

Of these, seven lakh are said to be from Ganjam, the home district of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

According to political analyst Narasingha Sahu, most of the migrant workers from Ganjam district are from the Polasara, Khallikote, Kavusuryanagar, Surada, Aska and Hinjli Assembly segments. But these migrant labourers have a say in all the 13 Assembly segments in Ganjam district.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy/very heavy rain is likely at isolated places over northwest Madhya Pradesh, west Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, east Uttar Pradesh and Gangetic West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.1	35.0	25.6	Kozhikode	—	32.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	1.6	30.0	23.7	Kurnool	—	33.7	23.3
Aizwal	—	30.3	18.1	Lucknow	43.8	28.1	25.0
Allahabad	4.4	31.4	26.1	Madurai	—	34.0	24.5
Bengaluru	—	29.8	19.7	Mangaluru	—	30.6	23.4
Bhopal	—	27.3	22.4	Mumbai	—	29.8	24.6
Bhubaneswar	3.6	32.7	24.3	Mysuru	—	31.7	15.6
Chandigarh	7.6	27.0	25.2	New Delhi	35.9	29.5	25.6
Chennai	—	35.1	25.9	Patna	—	30.0	25.3
Coimbatore	—	33.5	22.7	Port Blair	29.6	28.8	24.0
Dehradun	3.9	32.4	23.4	Puducherry	—	34.5	25.0
Gangtok	—	22.6	17.0	Pune	7.1	27.5	20.8
Goa	—	4.4	30.7	Raipur	—	30.8	23.2
Guwahati	15.4	33.4	24.6	Ranchi	17.4	29.4	21.5
Hubballi	—	27.0	21.0	Shillong	32.2	23.4	17.0
Hyderabad	4.8	30.8	21.5	Shimla	10.6	20.7	15.5
Imphal	—	30.6	21.8	Srinagar	—	30.1	18.5
Jaipur	12.3	28.0	23.7	Trivandrum	—	32.2	24.0
Kochi	—	30.4	25.0	Tiruchi	—	38.2	25.4
Kohima	6.6	26.6	18.9	Vijayawada	0.6	34.8	25.6
Kolkata	12.6	33.3	26.3	Visakhapatnam	—	33.4	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	—	—	75	—	118	—	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarnagar, recorded an AQI score of 165 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 25
Bengaluru	10	38	75	—	58	118	—
Chennai	32	20	54	—	77	—	—
Delhi	21	21	61	110	79	—	—
Hyderabad	18	15	13	—	49	70	—
Kolkata	.3	43	53	—	57	52	—
Lucknow	10	28	81	—	49	—	—
Mumbai	18	32	64	—	42	57	—
Pune	36	14	52	—	33	24	—
Visakhapatnam	—	.50	56	—	70	.88	—

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

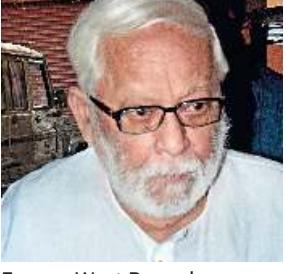
NO<sub>x</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Ex-CM Buddhadeb confined to home

Chronic pulmonary disease, eye problem do not allow him to go outside

SOUMYA DAS  
KOLKATA

Former West Bengal CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee ■ FILE PHOTO

his reading habit has also been hampered. Since he suffers from dry eyes, he cannot bear much light and always keeps the light in his room very dim, said senior CPI(M) leader Rabin Deb, known to be close to the former Chief Minister.

Sources close to Mr. Bhattacharjee also revealed that his left eye has been "damaged" for a long time and his right eye has also developed problems over the last few months.

## Financial help

However, the CPI(M) leadership denied reports that Mr. Bhattacharjee has turned down financial help from the party for treatment and

said that his medical expenditure is being borne by the party.

"We are in regular contact with Mr. Bhattacharjee and his medical expenditure is being borne by the party," said Mr. Deb. In October last year Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had called on Mr. Bhattacharjee to inquire about his health.

Mr. Bhattacharjee stepped down from the CPI(M) State committee in March due to health issues despite being urged by senior party leaders to continue as a committee member. He had also stepped down from the party's Central Committee and Polit Bureau earlier.

Lokanath Mishra, a social worker, said past experiences show that before elections, political leaders make arrangements for return of these migrant labourers to their homes so that they can vote.

But this time round, the BJD and the BJP have started their efforts to woo them several months before the elections.

Two weeks ago, a BJD delegation led by former State Minister and Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahy visited Surat.

BJP leaders are also sparing no efforts to woo the Odia workers in Surat. The party, with Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan leading the initiative, is chalking out a strategy to not let the BJD increase its base among Odia migrant labourers in Surat.

THE HINDU NOIDA/DELHI  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

NATION 7

# Kuttanad may never be the same again

People need to adapt to the climate change as floods are likely to be a regular event in the region in Alappuzha district of Kerala

DEEPU SEBASTIAN EDMOND  
KAINAKARY PANCHAYAT

Unlike his neighbours, Sunil Kumar has not lost any valuables to the continuing inundation of Kuttanad, which began in mid-July. His is one of four houses of Kandukurishchira locality in Alappuzha village which is built on stilts; all constructed within the last two years. Mr. Kumar said the floodwaters had threatened, but not actually entered, his house.

Yet, Mr. Kumar regrets the way he planned the construction. "I should have built the pillars higher, to seven feet or above from the ground. In the coming days, even this six feet height is not going to be enough," he said.

It was a frank admission that Kuttanad will never be the same again and that its people need to adapt to the climate change that is here to stay.

Neighbour P.P. Manoj, whose house has been declared unsafe by the government, said he will consider building his next house on stilts once he demolishes the unsafe building.

A series of bunds protect the below-sea level farmlands of Kuttanad, declared a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System by the Food and Agricultural Organisation, from the water around it.

The rain of mid-July had breached some bunds, thereby flooding the padasekharams (literally, collection of paddy farmlands) that they protected from the canal and



**Safe for now:** Sunil Kumar outside his house built on stilts. ■ DEEPU SEBASTIAN EDMOND

destroying the recently-sown paddy. The August rain finished off what its July counterpart began: all the padasekharams of Kuttanad are now flooded; bunds that were not breached were submerged; and water continues to inundate houses built on the edges of these fields, sized anywhere between 200-2,500 acres.

Pumps within the paddy fields that were supposed to evacuate this water have failed after being inundated. The breached bunds need to be repaired before pumping can happen – by padasekharams strapped for cash due to the failure of the 'second crop' this year. All this will delay the 'punja' cultivation, due to begin in late October.

Kuttanad, often cited as a model farming system for climate change adaption scenarios,

is also critical to Kerala. "One-third of all the water received through all the rivers of Kerala flows into Kuttanad. It means that Kuttanad's water level decides the water table for midland Kerala," said K.G. Padmakumar, Director of the Kuttanad-based Government of India-established International Research and Training Centre for Below Sea Level Farming.

There are reports of the South American native red-bellied pacu being caught widely from Kuttanad's canals post-flood. This newspaper had reported in July that the fish, widely grown in private ponds, had not yet been cleared for farming by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Padmakumar said the floods will affect biodiversity. "For example, the nutrient-rich water that has come down from the hills will soon turn

green due to a noxious algal bloom. This turbidity is harmful for the green chromide fish, which needs crystal clear water," he said. Green chromide or pearl spot was declared Fish of the State in 2010.

**C** It's a sinking below-sea level land surrounded by rising waters of the Vembanad

Mr. Padmakumar also said that the silt settling on the Vembanad's clam bed as a result of this year's floods is likely to suffocate the clams.

Things have been changing for a while now. Multiple farmers this reporter interacted with said that they have felt that land has been 'sinking' in Kuttanad. Ajaya Ghosh of Chenengari pointed to the unevenness of the

water level outside his house. He estimated that there was a difference of over a foot in the water level between two extremes of the building and feared the house would sink further when water receded into the adjacent Paruthivalavu padasekharam.

Mr. Padmakumar agreed, saying this was largely due to the ending of a practice where clay from the Vembanad lake was scooped up to layer the farmlands. Kuttanad, a sedimentary formation, has therefore kept sinking.

#### Poor implementation

Among other things, the Kuttanad Package for the holistic development of the area – designed by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) – envisaged the setting up of sluice gates to allow water to enter and exit padasekharams, thereby allowing the deposit of silt. However, the bunds that were constructed as a result had no such mechanism: the water pumps kept the silt in the lake. This was pointed out in a study by the National Centre for Earth Science Studies, which said that the carrying capacity of the Vembanad lake had reduced.

N. Anil Kumar, the Executive Director (in charge) at MSSRF said the package was poorly implemented without the hydrological and ecological concerns taken into account. The physics of it all works against Kuttanad: a sinking

below-sea level land surrounded by rising waters of the Ganga in Allahabad on Monday. ■ PTI

water level outside his house. He estimated that there was a difference of over a foot in the water level between two extremes of the building and feared the house would sink further when water receded into the adjacent Paruthivalavu padasekharam.

Mr. Padmakumar agreed, saying this was largely due to the ending of a practice where clay from the Vembanad lake was scooped up to layer the farmlands. Kuttanad, a sedimentary formation, has therefore kept sinking.

There is a warning in it for Kuttanad: Mr. Padmakumar points out that the region is only 700 years old, having formed due to a geological event. The NCESS study cited above had warned that climate change will exacerbate the damage to the ecosystem caused by land use changes, finishing off the wetland system around Vembanad in 50 years.

There will be a lot of adaptation to do. Mr. Kumar of MSSRF predicts that Kuttanad will move from its two-crop system to a 'one rice, one fish' model. "This will help farmers avoid the intense rainy days as a result of the changing monsoon. This will take time, and the MSSRF will run pilot projects to demonstrate. We will integrate fish into this system, moving into an eco-aquaculture model," he said.

"A place like Kainakary is a climate hotspot. No habitations should be allowed there," he suggested. Mr. Padmakumar said: "The whole world is looking at Kuttanad. How it survives will be an example for the whole world."



**Rooftop view:** A view of huts submerged by the rising waters of the Ganga in Allahabad on Monday. ■ PTI

## Over 1,400 killed in 10 States this monsoon

488 people have died in Kerala: MHA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Forty-three people have been missing – 15 in Kerala, 14 in Uttar Pradesh, five in West Bengal, six in Uttarakhand and three in Karnataka, while 386 have been injured in rain-related incidents across the 10 States.

Rain and floods have hit 30 districts in Odisha, 26 districts in Maharashtra, 25 in Assam, 23 each in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, 14 in Kerala, 13 in Uttarakhand, 11 each in Karnataka and Nagaland, and 10 in Gujarat.

In Assam, 11.47 lakh people have borne the brunt of rain and floods, which have also hit crops covering 27,964 hectares of land. In West Bengal, the deluge has hit 2.28 lakh people and damaged crops on 48,552 hectares of land.

In Uttar Pradesh, 3.42 lakh people have been impacted and crops on 50,873 hectares damaged. In Karnataka, 3.5 lakh have been hit and crops on 3,521 hectares of land damaged.

### IN BRIEF



#### T.N. issues first licence for private power supply

CHENNAI

In a first, Tamil Nadu will soon have a private licensee in electricity distribution. The State Electricity Regulatory Commission has permitted the India Power Corporation (Tuticorin) Private Limited, a Kolkata-based company, to supply power to units in the Special Economic Zone in Tirunelveli district.

#### One dead, 153 injured in dahi handi revelry

MUMBAI

Nearly 153 people were injured in dahi handi celebrations on Monday, of which nearly 70 were admitted to various city hospitals while the others were discharged after treatment. In Dharavi, a 26-year-old man, who had an epileptic attack, died soon after falling from the first tier of the pyramid.

#### Three boys saved from drowning in Mumbai

MUMBAI

Alert bystanders rescued three boys who were drowning while swimming on the Versova beach during high tide on Monday evening. A fourth boy is still missing. The police said Aaysuh Khanduraindar (13), Harsh Koli (12), Rehan Ansari (12) and Vaibhav Gaud (13) were playing in the waters when they started drowning. Local fishermen rescued Aayush, Harsh and Rehan. Vaibhav could not be found till 8.30 p.m.

## Panel urges plan to save springs

Moots dedicated mission to revive Himalayan springs



JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

A NITI Aayog constituted group of experts has urged the government to set up a dedicated mission to salvage and revive spring water systems in the country's Himalayan States, given their vital importance as a source of water for both drinking and irrigation for the region's inhabitants.

Spanning States across the country's north and northeast and home to about 50 million people, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) has been heavily reliant on these natural groundwater sources, that are under increasing threat from the urbanisation

led 'Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security.' "Almost 60% of low-discharge springs that provided water to small habitations in the Himalayan region have reported clear decline during the last couple of decades," the report's authors, who included experts from the Department of Science and Technology, noted.

**Shimla crisis**  
The extent of the crisis plaguing the mountainous region was recently evident when more than half a dozen districts of Himachal Pradesh and the State capital Shimla faced a severe drinking water crisis this May after major water sources either went fully or partially dry. While poor water management was said to be the key cause, according to State

authorities, they also attributed reduced snowmelt and depressed flow from springs as contributors to the crisis.

While Meghalaya with 3,810 villages with springs had the highest number of these water sources in the Eastern Himalayan States, Sikkim had the greatest density with 94% of its villages having a spring. In the Western Himalayas, Jammu & Kashmir had both the highest number of villages with springs at 3,313 and the greatest density of 50.6%.

The task force moots an 8-year programme to overhaul spring water management. This includes: preparing a digital atlas of the country's springs, training 'para-hydrogeologists' who could lead grassroots conservation and introducing a 'Spring Health Card.'

## Classic case of revenge by husband

Supreme Court quashes cheating case filed by man against estranged wife

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has quashed a case of cheating instituted by a man against his estranged wife, observing it as an instance of "classic revenge" against her for seeking maintenance from him to support herself and their two children.

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana expressed surprise at how the trial court in Gha-

ziabad in Uttar Pradesh issued summons to the woman and her family on the basis of the FIR. Subsequently, on appeal, the Allahabad High Court, in January 2017, refused to quash the FIR.

The apex court, in a recent order, said the cheating case should have been treated merely as a "counterblast" for the series of allegations, including dowry ha-

rassment, the woman had levelled against the man.

"Merely because appellant No. 1 had not completed her MCA at the time of marriage and finished it after the marriage, it cannot be said that she and her family had cheated him," the Supreme Court observed, quashing the trial court summons and proceedings against the woman and her family.

## DRI seizes 8,000 kg of shark fins

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has smashed an international wildlife smuggling racket with the seizure of about 8,000 kg of shark fins in Mumbai and the coastal town of Veraval in Gujarat. Four persons, including the mastermind, have also been arrested.

According to the DRI, the consignments were meant to be illegally exported to China and Hong Kong. The fins were procured from the seas along the coasts of Ratnagiri and Mumbai in Maharashtra, and Veraval and Okha in Gujarat.

They are used for preparing "shark fin" soup in China and Vietnam. Usually served on special occasions such as weddings and banquets, it is considered a luxury food item and is of immense significance, with one bowl of soup costing at least \$100.

Acting on a tip-off that some exporters were indulging in the trans-border smuggling of fins of various species of sharks, the agency mounted surveillance and zeroed in on the suspects. The fins were to be smuggled out on the pretext of exports of dried ray skins, dried marine products, and fish maw, to evade detection.

## Barking dogs keep Lalu awake in hospital



Lalu Prasad

orities for further direction.

Mr. Prasad suffers from a blood infection, diabetes and other diseases. He has undergone several tests, and the reports are awaited.

Convicted in three fodder scam cases, Mr. Prasad had surrendered at the special CBI court in Ranchi on August 30 and was sent to the RIMS for medical assistance.

## Vishnu to the rescue of temple turtles

Innovative idea helps revive Indian Roofed Turtles



The Kurma idol placed near the pond. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in the pond while channelling the fervour of visitors. On August 26, an idol of Vishnu in his Kurma (turtle) avatar was installed at the temple complex.

The Lota Devi temple is a very old religious place and

thousands of devotees throng to worship Goddess Kali. The offerings made by the devotees in the pond left it very polluted. This symbolic Kurma idol is placed on an altar just outside the fenced area, where devotees can place their offerings rather than directly polluting the pond," said Shyama Pandey, secretary of the Society for Protecting Ophiofauna & Animal Rights (SPOAR).

Mr. Pandey said tests conducted earlier this year showed that dissolved oxygen in the pond was very low and contamination of the water was resulting in the death of turtles.

The NGO has taken the

lead in reviving the species and earlier this year, fenced the pond. SPOAR and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) also cleaned and dredged the pond and added native aquatic plants and fish to help the surviving turtles.

"It was a very innovative idea and therefore, we joined hands with SPOAR. The habitat of the species is shrinking and there is need to protect the species in such ponds which is close to human population," Debobroto Sircar of WTI said.

Mr. Sharma said there were about 20 Indian Roofed Turtle in the pond. Following the conservation efforts, new turtle hatchlings were recently spotted in it.

lead in reviving the species and earlier this year, fenced the pond. SPOAR and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) also cleaned and dredged the pond and added native aquatic plants and fish to help the surviving turtles.

"It was a very innovative idea and therefore, we joined hands with SPOAR. The habitat of the species is shrinking and there is need to protect the species in such ponds which is close to human population," Debobroto Sircar of WTI said.

Mr. Sharma said there were about 20 Indian Roofed Turtle in the pond. Following the conservation efforts, new turtle hatchlings were recently spotted in it.



## Beyond uniformity

The Law Commission's advice to end discrimination in personal laws is persuasive

The Law Commission's consultation paper on reform of family laws is a progressive document that avoids the advocacy of a uniform civil code merely for the sake of uniformity. Instead, it adopts an approach that would facilitate movement towards establishing a body of civil law that promotes equality within the law governing each community. In other words, it advocates the removal of discriminatory provisions in the law relating to aspects such as marriage, divorce, succession and adoption in all religions – and the adoption of certain universal principles that would address gender bias and other forms of existing discrimination. A simple way of moving towards a common marriage law is to make 18 the marriageable age for all communities and genders. When the age of majority and the age of voting, among other indicators of adulthood, stand at 18, there is no reason for differential treatment on this score. The Commission rightly points out that the present age of 21 for men merely affirms the stereotype that the wife should be younger. Decriminalising adultery and making it a common ground for divorce, simplifying the 'no-fault' divorce procedure and introducing 'irretrievable breakdown' as a ground for dissolving any marriage are other measures it throws open for discussion. The panel suggests abolition of the 30-day notice period for civil marriages to prevent its misuse by those against inter-caste and inter-religious marriages. It also suggests division of property equally after divorce, and removal of illnesses that can be cured or controlled from possible grounds of divorce.

The thrust of the Law Commission's report is founded on the idea that "the mere existence of difference does not imply discrimination, but is indicative of a robust democracy." Changes have been mooted to give equal treatment to children and parents of any gender in guardianship and adoption matters. The juvenile law principle that the child's best interest is the 'paramount consideration' has also been put forward for universal application. While calling for a wider public debate on its views, the Law Commission has framed the issue in the most reasonable way possible when it says it has "dealt with laws that are discriminatory rather than providing a uniform civil code which is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage." In a strict and narrow reading, this goes against the Directive Principles of State Policy that favour a uniform civil code; also, some court judgments have questioned why such a code was not yet in place. However, in a world that increasingly heeds cultural diversity, it is unnecessary that every aspect of personal law should be dealt with in exactly the same manner. A just code is one in which universal principles of equality, non-discrimination and avoidance of taboos and social assumptions are applicable in equal measure within every community's set of laws.

## Medal meter

With 69 medals, India's performance at the Asian Games has many lessons going forward

India's best-ever Asian Games medal haul at Jakarta has brought much cheer. The Indian contingent raked in 69 medals, including 15 gold. It may have lagged at eighth place on the medals table, way behind China with its 289 medals – but compared to recent Asiad, India registered significant progress in many events, with heroic performances among both women and men. These will go a long way in inspiring others, and also hopefully making the sports administration more responsive to the needs of athletes. Track and field was a happy hunting ground, with India picking up 19 medals, including seven of its total 15 golds. Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, whose gold-winning 88.06m makes him among the world's best, particularly shone. As did Swapna Barman, who kept ahead of the pack to win gold in heptathlon even as she coped with a painful tooth infection and shoes far from ideal for her six-toed feet. Boxer Amit Panghal shocked Uzbekistan's Olympic champion Hasanov Dusmatov with a split verdict in the men's 49 kg category. Shooting and wrestling seized two gold medals each while table tennis broke its Asian Games drought with two bronze medals. P.V. Sindhu claimed the country's maiden Asiad silver in badminton and Saina Nehwal got a bronze. There were disappointments too, especially in kabaddi, in which for the first time both the men's and women's teams finished without a gold medal. In men's hockey, India, the defending champion and favourite, slumped with a bronze, missing automatic qualification for the Olympics in Tokyo.

While India improved on its previous best of 65 at the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games, it remains miles behind Asian powerhouses like China and Japan, the top two in Jakarta. The fact that one woman swimmer from Japan, Rikako Ikee, who was adjudged as the Asiad's Most Valuable Player, could win six golds gives a fair idea of where India stands. While the competition in track and field had audiences riveted, it is a sobering reality check that independent India has not won a single medal in athletics at the Olympics; China already has 32, including eight golds, and Japan has 25, with seven of them gold. Hope of this equation changing rests on Chopra, who could excel in global events in the years to come, and perhaps on under-20 world champion Hima Das, whose time of 50.79s got her the 400m silver. India should now build on its Asiad success to do better at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games than it did in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, when the contingent returned with just two medals. It also needs to ensure that the sport is clean.

# The nature of dissent

Dissent is necessary not only for democracy — it is necessary for the survival of the human race



SUNDAR SARUKKAI

**D**isagreeing with each other is a fundamental human trait. There is not a single individual who does not disagree with something or the other all the time. Philosophers argue that a baby meaningfully attains its sense of the self – its recognition of 'I' and the concept of 'mine' – when it first begins to say 'no'. At a primordial level, we become individuals only through this act of stating our disagreement. There is no family without dissent between parents and the children, or between the siblings. A family which learns to deal with dissent rather than authoritatively dismissing it is a more harmonious family.

### A way of being

We dissent at home, with our friends and with our colleagues in the places we work. It is through these ways of dissenting that we establish a relationship with them. Our relations with our friends are based as much on how we learn to live with our disagreements as on other things. The relationship between spouses is filled with many moments of disagreement. If our friends and family consist only of those who agree with us all the time, then we will not have any friends and family. Learning to live with others, the first requisite for a social existence, is about learning how to live with them when they disagree with us.

Dissent is so ingrained in us that we don't even need others to disagree. We constantly disagree with ourselves. We argue with our own selves all the time as if each one of us is an individual made up of many selves. When we think, we are often dissenting with our own selves. When we stifle dissent within our own minds, we stop thinking. Many of our meaningful acts also occur from this dissenting conversation of our many selves.

### Social dissent

Dissent is thus a condition of existence and the real problem is not dissent but silent assent. When we agree collectively, we are silently assenting, agreeing with what is being said and done. This is really not the existential characteristic of a human being but only that of a 'bonded mind'. However, some might say that assent is the way societies come together, and it is needed for a stable society. But this is plain wrong. Just as a baby attains its sense of self through dissent, so too does a society get its own identity by learning to dissent. In other words, we will have a stronger identity of what our society and nation are through forms of dissent.

Moreover, every process of forming the social needs dissent. A group made up of people who agree to everything all the time is not really a society but an oligarchy. It becomes a society only through disagreements and dissent. Dissent, paradoxically, is the glue which makes a decent society possible.

A mature society is one which has the capacity to manage dissent



since members of a society will always disagree with each other on something or the other. Democratic societies are the best of the available models in managing dissent with the least harmful effect on the dissenter. This is the true work of democracy; elections and voting are the means to achieve this. The essence of democracy is to be found in the method it uses to deal with dissent, which is through discussion and debate, along with particular ethical norms.

A democratic society manages dissent by trying to make individual practices of dissent into social practices. Academics and research are two important activities where dissent is at the core. No society has survived without making changes to what was present earlier. New knowledge and new ways of understanding the world, for good or bad, has always been part of every society.

How is new knowledge, new understanding, created? Many new ideas arise by going against earlier established norms and truths. Science, in its broadest meaning, is not possible without dissent since it is by finding flaws with the views of others that new science is created. No two philosophers agree on one point, and no two so-

cial scientists are in perfect harmony with each other's thoughts. Artists are constantly breaking boundaries set by their friends and peers. Buddha and Mahavira were dissenters first and philosophers next. The Ramayana and Mahabharata are filled with stories of dissent and responsible ways of dealing with it.

Thus, when academics dissent, it is part of their job expectation to do so! Dissent is not just about criticism, it is also about showing new perspectives. The scientific community does not imprison scientists for dissenting although we are increasingly finding today that social scientists and artists are being targeted in the name of dissent. This has grown to such an extent that when faculty members dissent about unlawful hiring practices, they face harassment and suspension.

It is not that dissent is necessary only for democracy – it is necessary for the survival of the human race. Any society which eradicates dissent has only succeeded in eradicating itself. We cannot afford to forget the examples of Nazi Germany or Stalinist Russia. A sustainable, harmonious society can only be formed from practices which deal with dissent respectfully and ethically.

### Ethics of dissent

The importance of dissent is not just that it is good for democracy. There is also fundamental ethical principle involved in dissent. Any society which muzzles dissent is acting unethically. Let me give two ethical principles associated with dissent. First, its relation to non-violence, a principle which is

so integral to the unique Indian practices of dissent from ancient times to Gandhi and Ambedkar. Second, dissent is an ethical means of protecting those who are worse off than others. Dissent is not mere complaint which all of us, however privileged we are, indulge in. Social dissent is a necessary voice for all those who are oppressed and are marginalised for various reasons. This is the only thing they have in a world which has denied them the basic dignity of a social life.

The ethical principle is that the worse off in a society have greater right to dissent and protest even when the more privileged may not agree or sympathise with that dissent. This is the truly ethical principle that can sustain a mature society. Thus, when we hear the voices of dissent from the oppressed and the marginalised, it is ethically incumbent upon those who are better off than them to give them greater space and greater freedom to dissent. Any of us, particularly the more well-off population, who support any government which wants to use its power to stop dissent of those who are suffering from injustice of various kinds are being used as partners in this unethical action. We act immorally when we sit in the comfort of our homes and abuse those who fight for the rights of the poor and oppressed. When we condemn them in the name of the nation, we are performing an unethical act of further condemning those who are already condemned.

Sundar Sarukkai is Professor of Philosophy at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

## Green shoots of revival

Next year will be crucial in further development of the Bay of Bengal region



RAJIV BHATIA

**T**he road to the fourth summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Kathmandu, Nepal, last week was marked by scepticism and hope. This was understandable, given the grouping's past performance – modest in the previous 19 years and promising in the past two years. The same blend characterises the summit's outcome. A dispassionate mindset is essential to assess its results accurately.

### The positives

On the positive side, the fact that the summit could be held was a success in itself. It had been delayed. More importantly, BIMSTEC leaders listened to officials, experts and business chambers, and concluded that this grouping (composed of five South Asian and two Southeast Asian nations) needed to be given a firm institutional foundation. As a result, several important decisions have been taken. First, work begins now on drafting a charter for BIM-

STE, which has functioned so far on the basis of the Bangkok Declaration of 1997, and outcomes of the past three summits and the Leaders' Retreat in 2016. Second, a Permanent Working Committee will be set up to provide direction during the period between two summits and also to prepare the Rules of Procedure. Third, the Secretariat has been promised additional financial and human resources and enhancement of its role to coordinate, monitor and facilitate the grouping's activities.

Fourth, as the institution has been handicapped due to lack of financial muscle, the leaders (*picture shows some of them*) took the bold decision to establish the BIMSTEC Development Fund. This is not an easy task, but without strengthening itself financially, BIMSTEC cannot shed the unwanted tag of being a mere talk shop. Fifth, a push to increase its visibility and stature in the international arena will also be made. Finally, recognising that 16 areas of cooperation represent too wide a spectrum, the BIMSTEC governments will make a serious endeavour to review, restructure and rationalise various sectors, identifying a few core areas. In this exercise, Thailand has proposed a new strategy of five pillars (*viz. connectivity, trade and investment, people-to-people contacts, security, and science and technology*). This will

be considered, although the difficulty in dropping specific sectors dear to individual member-states should not be minimised.

### Concerns

As to the debit side of the balance sheet, it should be noted that of at least six legal instruments awaiting finalisation, only one, the Memorandum of Understanding on Grid Interconnection, could be inked in Kathmandu. Fourteen years after signing the framework agreement on Free Trade Area (FTA), the leaders could only renew, rather lamely, their "commitment to an early conclusion" of FTA negotiations. The Thai Prime Minister bravely urged participants to accept making BIMSTEC a Free Trade Zone by 2021 as "our common goal", but this did not find a place in the summit declaration. The Myanmar President pointed out that the grouping had established its Energy Centre in 2009, but it was still struggling for the "early operationalisation" of the Centre.

Every participant dwelt on the advantages and potential of connectivity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi aptly emphasised that "the biggest opportunity is connectivity – trade connectivity, economic connectivity, transport connectivity, digital connectivity, and people-to-people connectivity." The Kathmandu Declaration has spelt

out a number of measures, old and new, to secure this objective. However, it was noted that the Motor Vehicle Agreement and the Coastal Shipping Agreement would still need more time for finalisation.

Hopes were pinned on the leaders agreeing to make the BIMSTEC summit an annual affair. But they stopped short of it, choosing a "timely holding of Summit". Probably the timing of the next summit will be determined by the degree of progress ministers and officials achieve in the coming months. If the grouping succeeds in holding its next summit in 2019, it will be seen as a healthy sign.

### Other facets

The annex to the summit's declaration presents an overview of the present state of play in various areas of activity. Plans to revitalise the Business Forum and the Economic Forum should be welcome if they help in fully engaging busi-



ness and industry. Cooperation in the security domain has been progressing satisfactorily, with a new instrument added to the arsenal: a meeting of home ministers. This will be in addition to annual meetings of national security advisers and the first meeting of army chiefs, which is due to take place in Pune this month. Also envisaged is a sound plan to establish forums for parliamentarians, universities, cultural organisations and the media community.

The summit articulated a vision for the Bay of Bengal Region heading towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future. The region is now widely viewed as a common space for security, connectivity and development.

Think tanks are fond of advising governments that they should walk the talk. But this time, that role was appropriated by the Nepalese Prime Minister and the summit chairman, who asserted: "Now is the time not just to deliberate, but also to deliver. Now is the time to translate promises into performance." If this prescription is followed by all, BIMSTEC can become a dynamic, effective and result-oriented organisation. The coming year will be crucial in its further development.

Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House and former Ambassador to Myanmar

## 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.

### Peace and Pakistan

The fact is that it would be very difficult for India to pursue long-lasting peace with Pakistan (Editorial page, "Making peace with Naya Pakistan", September 3). The country will remain under the control of the Pakistan Army. There is a slight possibility of a new beginning only if India is able to root out terrorism in Kashmir. For this, the Army alone must be allowed to act.

V.V. NAIR,  
Manipal, Karnataka

I think India has done quite enough in terms of trying to explore peace with Pakistan. While people-to-people contacts can improve relations, it is also incumbent on leaders in Pakistan to rebuild broken bridges with India. New Delhi has made it clear to Pakistan many a time that ending cross-border terrorism is an essential prerequisite to take bilateral dialogue ahead. It is surprising that the writer has not said a word about terrorism that Rawalpindi and Islamabad doggedly

pursue as an instrument of state policy. Even the U.S. has cancelled aid to Pakistan over the issue of terror.

KANGAYAM R. NARASIMHAN,  
Chennai

■ Despite the 'deep state' in Pakistan, the election of Imran Khan and the PTI kindles hope of another chance to restore ties with India. Civil society in India and Pakistan should help transcend elements within and outside both governments in pursuing peace. As an example, one can cite the response to Navjot Singh Sidhu's visit to Pakistan.

GURPARTAP SINGH BHULLAR,  
New Delhi

**Readers speak**  
If there is one thing in common among many readers ('Letters to the Editor', September 3) it is that we have been fed on a staple diet of *The Hindu* ever since we started to learn English. I must confess that in my over 60 years of English literacy, I have only read this daily. I might have broken the rule, but only on

rare occasions. Of course, the paper can improve ("Page 1, 'Let us know you better'", September 1). It must attempt to regain the neutrality that it once held dear.

Some of its articles betray its leanings as writers of a certain doctrine are seen to be encouraged. Perhaps the Reader's Editor could use local examples in anecdotal references (in his columns) to prove his point. Coverage on certain important happenings is often too voluminous and almost seen as an overdose.

SIVAMANI VASUDEVAN,  
Chennai

■ I have been an avid reader since childhood. In the past I used to read the Chennai (Madras) edition, which used to reach a day later but things are fine now with the Kolkata edition. Perhaps the only issue are the surcharges which make buying the paper a bit expensive.

RITWIK ROY,  
Kolkata

■ I have been a reader for over 50 years. After retiring

from the banking sector and now a coordinator at a free coaching centre, I always advise my students to read the daily for its accurate and balanced reporting.

N.A. MURARI,  
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

■ One of the letter writers (September 3) has recollects the paper having always published news on the first page. I happen to be eight years older than the letter writer and remember the daily having printed only classified advertisements on the first page. I am not quite sure when it was 'news alone' on the first page. Probably during the Second World War?

MANI SESADHI,  
Chennai

■ As a reader since 1969, I can vouch for the paper having followed its core values. My grandfather was also an ardent reader. A letter writer (September 3) has pointed to the issue of right-wing ideology being dangerous. He should also realise that Left ideology has become irrelevant. In the

end, what matters is development.

VIJAYA KUMAR,  
Bengaluru

■ As an ardent reader for at least five decades, I too join a band of loyal readers. I have learnt a lot from the newspaper in numerous ways especially as far as use of the English language is concerned. My suggestion is that more space should be given to the 'Letters to the Editor' column as the daily is one of the few left that still respects readers' views.

R. SAMPATH,  
Chennai

■ That *The Hindu* is turning 140 is delightful news – a wonderful milestone for a daily widely known for its quality and authenticity. I began reading the paper when I was posted at an Indian Air Force base in Coimbatore and express gratitude for the role it has played in helping me with the English language. I am now based in Haryana and continue to be a reader.

# Still too many children out of school

Data show that the proportion of these children is higher in rural areas and among SCs, STs and Muslims

MUCHKUND DUBEY, ASHOK PANKAJ & SUSMITA MITRA

The official numbers of out-of-school children in India are either out of date or contradictory. According to the 2011 Census, the number of out-of-school children in the 5-17 age group was 8.4 crore. However, according to a survey commissioned in 2014 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of out-of-school children in the 6-13 age group was only 60.64 lakh. This is a gross underestimation. It is quite unlikely that the number of out-of-school children came down so drastically from 2011 to 2014, especially given that there were no significant changes in objective conditions, warranting such a miraculous reduction.

## A matter of serious concern

We recently calculated the number of out-of-school children in India on the basis of the 71st round of the National Sample Survey (NSS) carried out in 2014. We took into account the 6-18 age group, which we consider to be the most appropriate for estimating out-of-school children, even though the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act covers only the 6-14 age group. According to our estimate, out-of-school children in this age group were more than 4.5 crore in the country, which is 16.1% of the children in this age group. In big States such as Odisha (20.6%), Uttar Pradesh (21.4%), Gujarat (19.1%), Bihar (18.6%), Madhya Pradesh (18.6%), Rajasthan (18.4%) and West Bengal (16.8%), about one-fifth of the children in this age group were out of school. In Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the proportion of out-of-school children was lower than the national average. It is a matter of serious concern that nearly 10 years after the enactment of the RTE Act, and 16 years after the right to education was elevated to a fundamental right, such a large number of children are out of school.

We also found that the proportion of out-of-school children was higher in rural India (17.2%) than in urban India (13.1%). In rural areas, the proportion of out-of-school girls (18.3%) was higher than of boys (16.3%). The proportion of children from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) was the highest, followed by



"Data show that many boys drop out of school to take up jobs to supplement the family earning." A garage in Bengaluru ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Among religious groups, the proportion of Muslims was as high as 24.1% in rural areas and 24.7% in urban areas. On the whole, the data show that out-of-school children came mostly from the rural areas, and a high proportion of them are SCs, STs, Muslims and from other economically backward communities.

## From low-income families

Recently, we completed a study on the extent, location (rural/urban), and distribution by social and religious groups of out-of-school children in the Fatuha and Bihta blocks of Patna district in Bihar. Our survey covered all those households in these two blocks which had one or more children in the 6-18 age group, the total number of households being 4,205. Our survey confirmed the national-level finding that out-of-school children came mostly from low-income, landless and marginal families – 99.34% of the families from which out-of-school children came were either landless or marginal. The annual income of the fathers of 58.19% of such children was less than ₹50,000. Also, fathers of 51.18% of out-of-school children and mothers of 88.45% of out-of-school children were uneducated. Moreover, fathers of 56.84% and mothers of 33.28% of such children were casual labourers.

Analysing the data collected from these two blocks, we found that the most important reason for boys to drop out of school was to take up jobs to supplement the family earning; for girls, it was the compulsion to participate in household work.

There is sufficient evidence to conclude that this is an all-India phenomenon. According to the RTE Act and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, these out-of-school children fall under the category of child labour. It is, therefore, not surprising that the largest number of child labourers in the world is in India.

## Reasons for not going to school

Several of the reasons given for the non-enrolment of children and their dropping out of school indicated the prejudice against educating girls that is prevalent in India. This prejudice has been brought out more sharply in the Telangana Social Development Report, 2018, prepared and published by the Southern Regional Centre, Hyderabad, of the Council for Social Development. This report also draws on the data of the 71st round of the NSS. According to these data, a proportionately larger percentage of girls than boys was not enrolled. In the rural areas, the gender gap on this count was as high as 13 percentage points. A relatively lower percentage of girls was found going to high fee-charging private schools. Similarly, a relatively lower percentage of girls took private coaching, which involves costs additional to those incurred for schooling. Very few students in Telangana resorted to private coaching, but among those who did, the share of girls was only 2% of the total number; the share of boys was 6%. A much higher proportion of girls than boys dropped out of school after Class 10, after which education is not necessarily free. An

additional collaborative evidence is that in Telangana, the average expenditure on the education of girls was less than that for boys. In Telangana, 50% of the children walked to their schools. Among these, the proportion of girls was higher than that of boys.

We would not have been confronted with this high proportion of drop-outs if all the provisions of the RTE Act had been implemented within the time limit prescribed in the Act (latest by April 2015). For example, the Act provided for the availability of a school at a distance of 1 km from the residence of the child at the primary level and 3 km at the upper primary level. If these provisions had been implemented, a major reason for drop-out (distance of school) would have been eliminated. If all the infrastructure facilities prescribed in the Act had been put in place during the period of implementation, another reason for drop-out (environment not friendly) would have disappeared.

The most important reason for drop-out (socio-economic conditions of the parents of the children) calls for a more comprehensive approach that is not reflected in the RTE Act. Until an adequate number of schools at the prescribed distances from the children's homes becomes available, it would be necessary to provide secure modes of subsidised travel to schools, particularly for girls. Another important provision which ought to have been included in the RTE is financial support to poor parents, adequate to enable them to send their children to school. There is incontrovertible evidence of a positive correlation between economic incentives and a lower drop-out.

The most important social reason for drop-out is lack of awareness of the importance of school education and of the fact that education is now a legal right. Ironically, education is the most important instrument for creating this awareness. Thus education is a quintessential example of being vested with intrinsic as well as instrumental value – being both the means and the end.

*Muchkund Dubey is President, Ashok Pankaj is Director, and Susmita Mitra is Assistant Professor of the Council for Social Development, New Delhi*

# When the levee breaks

We have to be better prepared for calamities arising from extreme weather events



SUJATHA BYRAVAN

The Kerala floods have been attributed to mismanagement of reservoirs, construction at sites that are off-limits, changes in land use patterns, destruction of forests and very heavy rain over weeks. Recently, other parts of the world too experienced extreme events. Sweden and Norway had a large number of wildfires that broke out with heat waves this summer. California has been ravaged by fire.

With the climate getting warmer, communities need to be prepared for an increase in the severity and frequency of prolonged heat waves causing dry conditions and fire, cyclones, very heavy downpours in short periods of time leading to flooding, and the failure of seasonal rains leading to droughts.

But climate change does not appear with a legible calling card. Each of these events interacts with local conditions and activities to manifest a separate pattern of destruction. So, there may be landslides in hilly areas with little vegetation, severe flooding in homes built on lakebeds, flooded streets when storm water drains are not clear, breaking of levees, destruction of property and loss of life. The meteorological events may trigger the natural disaster, but they do not necessarily cause it.

## Lessons to learn

The squeaky wheel gets the grease, or so the expression goes. Residents and decision makers look for immediate measures to contain or prevent similar events in future. Unfortunately, these efforts quite often turn out to be short-term actions that could worsen challenges in the long term. Studies by Sarah Anderson and colleagues show that such extreme events, which are high impact but have a low probability of occurrence, lead to managerial responses that may be ineffective, can be maladaptive, and may in fact result in worsening the problems.

There are some lessons to be learnt from looking back at how extreme events were dealt with in the past and what the consequences were. The 2010 Pakistan floods were caused by unprecedented rainfall along with sudden changes in the flow location of the Indus, which occurred due to the breach of the Tori Bund, a levee built upstream to contain the river water. Similarly, the Kosi in Bihar temporarily changed its flow path in 2008 as a result of mismanaged response to earlier floods. The river brings a

large amount of silt, which, along with the large volumes of water, led to a breach of the embankments and caused severe flooding in northern Bihar and parts of Nepal. These levees were built in response to earlier floods. In such situations, when a river is prone to avulsion, there should be plans to accommodate large periodic flows of water and sediment.

Responding for the long term often involves difficult choices by local people and decision makers, such as moving people out of flood plains or building homes that are designed to withstand flooding. Strengthening the engineering structures is not always the right solution. Short-term solutions demonstrate that some action is being taken, and they also match the political cycle of four to five years, but they do not generally take local ecology and the landscape into consideration and do not address long-term changes taking place as a result of climate change.

In another example, various new kinds of vector-borne diseases are rearing their heads and some of the older ones are reappearing due to changes linked with higher temperatures. But increased spraying with insecticides, a short-term measure, results in boosting resistance of the pest to the chemical spray. Scientists give the example of Boa Vista, in Brazil, where aggressive efforts launched after one patient was found to be infected with the dengue virus led to rapid and widespread increase in insecticide resistance in the region. Similarly, the approach taken by the U.S. Forest Service to suppress forest fire as a result of prominent fires in the early part of last century had the inadvertent effect of making tree growth denser and more flammable. This most likely made subsequent fires more dangerous when they occurred in warmer temperatures.

## The way forward

For Kerala, the long-term decisions would include improving land use, so that much of the rain water can be absorbed, paying heed to recommendations for limiting development projects in the Western Ghats, especially in vulnerable areas, developing systems for integrated management of water including in reservoirs, designing emergency evacuation measures, and improving institutional mechanisms so that there can be an immediate and integrated response when there is unprecedented rain. When the risk of extreme events increases, people and governments are more likely to pay attention and respond to that risk through action. But making sure that the action is suitable for the short and also the long term is crucial.

*Sujatha Byravan is a scientist who studies science, technology and development policy*

## SINGLE FILE

### The bedaquiline boost

Replacing injectables with bedaquiline will lead to improvement in treatment outcomes for patients with MDR-TB

R. PRASAD

**BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT** The "treatment landscape" for patients with multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) is set to be "dramatically transformed" following a recent communication by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Based on assessment of new evidence, the WHO made an important change in the regimen to treat patients with MDR-TB, which is resistant to at least two of the first-line drugs. All injectables are to be replaced with a fully oral regimen to treat MDR-TB patients, and the powerful alternative drug, bedaquiline, has been included in the fully oral regimen.

Injectables to treat MDR-TB can cause serious adverse effects leading to many patients discontinuing treatment midway; the treatment success rate for MDR-TB was only 54% for patients starting treatment in 2014. Replacing injectables with bedaquiline will, therefore, lead to major improvement in treatment outcomes and in the quality of life of patients.

While the new guidelines for MDR-TB treatment will be released later this year, the "rapid communication" issued by the WHO is to inform member-states to take "immediate steps" to ensure that MDR-TB patients receive treatment in accordance with the latest evidence on drug effectiveness and safety. The WHO's interim guidelines recommended that the drug be given to MDR-TB patients only as a last resort as large-scale clinical trials (Phase III) using bedaquiline have not been carried out. In Phase IIb trials, the drug was found to have cardio-toxicity, and there were also more deaths during the trial. The formal review of the 2016 WHO guidelines was prompted by evidence of effectiveness and safety of drugs from several clinical trials, observational studies, and programmatic implementation of new regimens to treat MDR-TB patients.

South Africa was the first country to scale up access to bedaquiline. In June, South Africa said bedaquiline would replace injectables for treating all MDR-TB patients. In July, it struck a deal with Johnson & Johnson to halve the price of the drug – to \$400 from about \$750 – for a six-month course of treatment. The company has committed to offer the drug at \$400 to India, over 50% cheaper than the earlier price of \$900 negotiated with the government two years ago. As per WHO Global TB Report 2017, India had an estimated 84,000 new MDR/rifampicin-resistant-TB cases in 2016 among those notified. Based on the first-ever drug susceptibility testing on nearly 5,000 TB patients (new and previously treated) carried out in India in 2014-2016, 6.19% were found to be multidrug-resistant. India has been getting bedaquiline drug courses (11,000 so far) for free under the conditional access programme of USAID, which will end next year. With the drug becoming cheaper, and its effectiveness and safety now proven, India should waste little time to make the switch to treat all MDR-TB patients with bedaquiline.



## CONCEPTUAL

### Activity trap

#### MANAGEMENT

This refers to a phenomenon wherein employees of an organisation are so busy performing a task delegated to them that they ignore the reason why the task is being performed. The activity trap can cause a serious wastage of resources as workers may be able to achieve targets but still fail to fulfil the desired objectives of the organisation. The term was coined by American management expert Peter Drucker in his book, *The Practice of Management*. In order to escape the curse of the activity trap, Drucker advocated that organisations should focus on management based on objectives rather than meaningless targets.

## MORE ON THE WEB

'It was the most dangerous nuclear situation'

<http://bit.ly/kashmirissue>

## ABSTRACT

### The impact of the river linking project

A study says the project will lead to shoreline loss

**MOHIT M. RAO**

India's massive civil engineering project, the National River Linking Project (NRLP), will not only reduce inflow of the northern rivers, but also significantly reduce the sediments deposited by the rivers in deltas, a study shows. Fertile deltas will be under threat, with coastal erosion expected to threaten the land and livelihoods of local economies that support 160 million people.

Four researchers from the University of Colorado sought to fill critical knowledge gaps in the understanding of the impact of the project: reduction in river discharge due to extensive canal works, and silt trapping in newer reservoirs and barrages. The study was published earlier this year in the journal *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*.

In the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta, projected aggradation (the amount of

silt deposited by rivers in its delta) will decrease by 30% to 2.5 mm per year on average. This will aggravate loss of land in a delta where sea level rise is estimated to be 5.6 mm on average annually.

The story for other deltas is similarly worrying. Already, reduced inflows due to natural and man-made processes has led to shoreline losses in the Krishna, Godavari and Mahanadi rivers. The NRLP will compound the problem. Though the Cauvery will see increases in flow (33%, with its tributary Penna seeing a staggering 450% increase), there will be almost no impact in its sediment discharge.

"Rare ecosystems and vital agricultural areas would become more vulnerable to storm surges, river flooding, and heightened salinity... the system will push the deltas further in the wrong direction," warns the study.

## FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1918.

### Sale of Sovereigns.

At the Esplanade Police Court yesterday [Bombay, September 2] an Inspector of the C.I.D., applied for the Chief Presidency Magistrate's consent under Rule 30 of the Defence of India (consolidation) rules 1915, for the institution of proceedings against a Shroff and a broker for contravention of rule 21 C (I) with regard to dealing in sovereigns published in the Gazette of India on the 22nd ultimo. The Magistrate gave the necessary consent. This is the first application since the publication of the notification. Before the Third Presidency Magistrate the Inspector then charged the first accused, a Shroff, with selling on or about the 31st ultimo one hundred sovereigns to the second accused, a broker, for an amount exceeding the face value of sovereigns and the second accused with purchasing the sovereigns at that higher rate.

### The Humanitarian Conference.

The third Humanitarian Conference commenced here yesterday [in Bombay on September 2]. Mrs. [Annie] Besant said in the course of her Presidential address: A great difficulty in a country like India was the clashing of two civilisations, one different from the other. Amongst Hindus, Jains and Buddhists the duty of pity and kindness to all that was weak was being emphasised continually. When they came in touch with the civilisation of the west they found the same feeling expressed in a different way. They must remember that habits and customs had much to do with their judgment and emotions. She asked her audience not to think that because Europeans were meat eaters they were indifferent to the sufferings of animals. Views differed on the question of destroying or preserving injured animals. The Hindu would at once say they had no right to kill a sick or injured animal, because they could nurse it. He would argue that when their child became ill they did not kill it. The other view was that it was cruel to allow an animal to live if there was no way of stopping its sufferings.

## DATA POINT

### Wages of disparity

While the real average daily wages for various professions increased significantly (93%, ₹119 per day) between 1993-94 and 2011-12, the largest raise was registered in the "legislators, officers & managers" category, which includes politicians (98.5%, ₹522), and professionals (89.5%, ₹351). The wage gain among blue collar workers is well below average



SOURCE: INDIA WAGE REPORT, INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

FROM PAGE ONE

## HC questions presser on activists' arrests

Mr. Gaikwad, who claims to be a victim of the Bhima-Koregaon violence, alleged in his petition that the Pune police had now come up with a "new connected" story that the violence was instigated by the Elgar Parishad organisers at Shanivarsawa.

The plea said the arrests of intellectuals and lawyers were being carried out purely on the whims and fancies of the Pune police. The petition sought the transfer of the investigation from Vishrambaug police station to the NIA. Following multiple raids across the country on August 28, the Pune Police had arrested five prominent human rights activists and lawyers - Sudha Bharadwaj, Gautam Navlakha, Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira and Ver-

non Gonsalves. At the press conference following the arrests, Mr. Singh had said the Pune police "have evidence that clearly establish links between Maoist organisations and the arrested rights activists". Following the court's questions, public prosecutor Deepak Thakare said he would speak to the police officials concerned and seek their response.

The Bench posted the matter for hearing on September 7. In his petition, Mr. Gaikwad alleged that the Pune police were investigating the case unfairly and with malafide intentions.

Since provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act have been invoked in the case, it would be appropriate for the NIA to probe it, the petitioner said.

## Governor's office helps end J&K kidnap drama

"Naikoo was under a lot of pressure by the Hizbul leadership to show results. In the meantime the number two Altaf was killed. Naikoo is a nominal head, the real operative was Altaf. It was Altaf who planned the abductions and put out messages to throw acid on people taking part in the panchayat elections, but he was killed the same day. In a vacuum, they require heroes. Naikoo was standing on the shoulders of Altaf. He is badly bruised now," he said. After Altaf was killed, 11 relatives of policemen were abducted.

"Some elements in the security forces believed that Naikoo's father need not have been picked up. Or if he was detained, he could have been interrogated and released. His father being kept in police custody was another irritant and this led to a series of abductions," said the official.

Another official said militants were feeling the heat as J&K police are at the forefront of the counter-insur-

gency operations. "Police reacted in a professional way; there was sufficient pressure on the militants. If they had harmed the relatives, there were other levers working...they knew it was not a good bargain. They are riled that J&K police are upfront in operations," said the official.

K. Vijay Kumar, Adviser to the J&K Governor told *The Hindu* that J&K policemen understood the challenges.

"I myself had the feedback of several ranks of police including the constabulary. All of them are standing firm and strong. The professionalism has not come down," Mr. Kumar said.

He said the government was working on an improved package for the policemen.

"Home Minister Rajnath Singh has suggested to the Governor to declare more compensation and better accommodation facilities to boost the morale of the policemen. This is being worked on," he said.

**₹4,500 crore needed for new EVMs'**

## Cong. flags ₹29,000-cr. coal import scam

Continuing its anti-corruption campaign, party cites inflated bills from power firms importing coal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI  
The Law Commission has said that more than ₹4,500 crore will be needed to buy new electronic voting machines (EVMS) and paper trail machines (VVPATs) for "imminent" simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

Its draft report on simultaneous polls issued last week, the law panel quoted the Election Commission as saying that around 10,60,000 polling stations will be set up for the 2019 General Elections.

"It (EC) further informed that as of now, there is a shortfall of about 12.9 lakh ballot units, 9.4 lakh control units and about 12.3 lakh VVPATs, if simultaneous elections are to be held," the report read.

According to it, an EVM, which includes a control unit, a ballot unit and a VVPAT, costs about ₹33,200.

"Thus, the EC has informed that an expenditure of about ₹4,555 crore will be incurred on procurement of EVMs for an imminent simultaneous election," the draft report read.

Keeping in mind the average shelf life of 15 years of an EVM, the Law Commission said that at the prevailing rates, ₹1,751.17 crore will be required for procuring EVMs for conduct of the second simultaneous elections in 2024 and ₹2,017.93 crore for the third simultaneous elections in 2029.

**SANDEEP PHUKAN**  
NEW DELHI  
Former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh on Monday demanded the setting up of a special investigation team (SIT) to probe allegations of 40 Indian companies - especially private power companies - submitting inflated bills for coal imported from Indonesia. The imports have reportedly resulted in a ₹29,000 crore scam.

"Among the prominent companies that have been issued show-cause notices by the Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is Prime Minister's favourite industrialist Gautam Adani. It also includes the capitalist associated with the Rafale deal, Anil Ambani... Essar is also

there...We must also remember that 70% of the coal that is imported is done through the Adani group," Mr. Ramesh said.

Reacting to the charges, a spokesperson for the Adani group said, "The Adani Group does not believe in wrongdoing. But since the matter is *sub judice*, we do not wish to comment."

### Since UPA regime

The controversy dates back to October 2014, when the DRI, under the Ministry of Finance, launched an investigation into alleged "over-invoicing of coal imports" by 40 companies since 2005-06 for a period of, at least, five years.

Asked to comment on the

fact that the charges related to a period when the UPA was in power, the former Minister said, "A scam is a scam and there should be a thorough probe on when and how it happened...The charges are based on a preliminary DRI inquiry and the law should be the same for everyone."

In the past one month, the Congress has carefully tried building a narrative of corruption against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government by focussing on the Rafale deal and the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor-General) report on Gujarat

The charges are being contested at different courts. Last week, the Adani group approached the Bombay High Court for a stay on the DRI's request to examine their documents of coal imports from Indonesia through Singapore-based firms.

But that has not stopped the Congress from raising it as "yet another case of corruption" under the present regime.

In the past one month, the Congress has carefully tried building a narrative of corruption against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government by focussing on the Rafale deal and the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor-General) report on Gujarat

State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) and is now targeting the Adani group.

"For the last three years, we have been consistently raising issues that makes a complete mockery of the PM's claim that he is providing a clean and transparent administration. Whether it is the GSPC scam, the Rafale deal or the deal concerning power companies, there is abundant evidence to show that certain favourite industrialists have been given undue advantage," Mr. Ramesh said.

Days after the Congress scaled up its corruption campaign, a case against Robert Vadra, son-in-law of former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, was filed on a land scam.

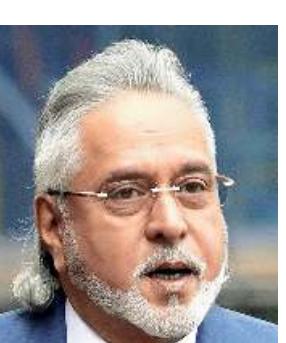
## Cong. questions Bedi's style of functioning

STAFF REPORTER

PUDUCHERRY  
Former Union Minister and Congress leader Jaipal Reddy on Monday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of encouraging Governors and Lt. Governors to work against the interest of non-BJP governments in States and Union Territories.

He said the PM in particular was encouraging Lt. Governors to undermine the Congress governments.

He said the Supreme Court in its judgment in the Delhi Chief Minister versus Lt. Governor of National Capital Territory case had clarified about where the real power rests.



Vijay Mallya

records and were not required to file a reply.

The ED had filed an application at the PMLA court on June 22 to declare Mr. Mallya a fugitive economic offender

and sought permission to confiscate all his properties, estimated to be worth around ₹12,500 crores.

On June 30, the court took cognisance of the application made by the ED under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill and ordered that a notice be issued against Mr. Mallya. It directed him to be present on August 27.

On August 27, the court granted Mr. Mallya time till September 3 to file a reply and then appear before the court.

It has now posted the matter to September 24 and given Mr. Mallya a final chance to file a reply.

The court is then likely to hear the matter on a day-to-day basis.

**Money laundering cases**

This is the first case under the new law.

The agency has filed two separate complaints of money laundering against Mr. Mallya, Kingfisher Airlines Limited and United Breweries Holdings Limited under PMLA. The court has taken cognisance of both the cases and issued fresh non-bailable warrants against Mr. Mallya.

He has also been declared a proclaimed offender and an "absconder" by court.

## CPI seeks to ally with Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India is looking forward to ally with the Congress in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which will go to the polls at the end of the year.

The party will meet on September 5 to discuss its electoral strategy. It does not have a single MLA in any of these States at present, but has a presence in small pockets. The party is hoping that it could increase its influence if it manages to get space under the Congress umbrella.

The Congress, however, has given less than a lukewarm response to the CPI's request for a tie-up. According to sources, the CPI leadership has spoken informally to Congress president Rahul Gandhi and those in charge of party affairs in these States, but no concrete arrangement has been arrived at.

"Our main objective is to defeat the BJP, for which all secular democratic parties must have a realistic, accommodative approach," CPI MP D. Raja said.

## Bring fuel prices under GST: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

As fuel prices saw yet another upward revision on Monday, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram reiterated his party's demand to include petroleum products under the goods and services tax (GST).

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, too, slammed the Centre over high fuel prices.

"Relentless rise in prices of petrol and diesel is not inevitable. Because the price is built up by excessive taxes on petrol and diesel. If taxes are cut, prices will decline significantly," Mr. Chidambaram said.

## Curbs on WhatsApp media groups in U.P.

Lalitpur officials seek their registration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Officials of a district in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh have been accused of trying to suppress media freedom by monitoring WhatsApp media groups and threatening criminal action against journalists not following its directives.

However, the administration on Sunday said it was a move to check circulation of fake news and the presence of "fake media portals".

In a joint directive issued by Lalitpur District Magistrate Manvendra Singh and Superintendent of Police O.P. Singh, the admins of all WhatsApp media groups operating in the district had been told to get their groups registered with the District Information Officer or face action.

"No WhatsApp media group in the district will be allowed to operate without registration and if found doing so, a case will be registered against the admin of the group under relevant sections of the IT Act," the two-page directive said.

The administration said that it took the step in view of increasing complaints of incidents in which "fake journalists" were intimidating and extorting money from the local people and government staff.

"News channels and YouTube portals have been circulating news and rumours that have caused a threat to the social harmony and unity of the district. The district also has many news portals that are not regis-



tered anywhere, and do not have a regulatory authority laid down for them," the directive said.

The administration has also specified that no news portal will be allowed to function in Lalitpur without its approval.

Clarifying on the directive, the District Magistrate said it was not to restrain the general media but to prevent the misuse of the platform by "fake" news channels and portals.

**Extortion charges**  
"It is for those who claim to be news channels but have no registration to show it. They go and extort money from people... we have been receiving complaints," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

He explained that the trigger for the directive came after a recent incident at Kursi village in Mehroni tehsil, where a portal spread news that some people had been denied entry into a temple, creating tension.

"We had to deploy forces in the area even when there was nothing of that sort happening," the District Magistrate said.

## Mallya gets last chance to reply

ED has filed an application to declare him a fugitive economic offender

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI**  
The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court on Monday gave one last chance to Vijay Mallya to file his reply to the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) application seeking to declare him a fugitive economic offender.

Senior counsel Amit Desai, appearing for Mr. Mallya, sought some documents from the ED, like annexures it attached in its complaint in the money laundering case. However, this was opposed by ED's counsel Hitien Venegavkar, who said the documents were a part of court



records and were not required to file a reply.

The ED had filed an application at the PMLA court on June 22 to declare Mr. Mallya a fugitive economic offender

and sought permission to confiscate all his properties, estimated to be worth around ₹12,500 crores.

On June 30, the court took cognisance of the application made by the ED under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill and ordered that a notice be issued against Mr. Mallya. It directed him to be present on August 27.

On August 27, the court granted Mr. Mallya time till September 3 to file a reply and then appear before the court.

It has now posted the matter to September 24 and given Mr. Mallya a final chance to file a reply.

He has also been declared a proclaimed offender and an "absconder" by court.

CM YK

THE HINDU NOIDA/DELHI  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

## IN BRIEF



Modi spends time with Vajpayee's family

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the family members of the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Monday. "Spent time with the family of beloved Atal ji at their residence," the Prime Minister tweeted, along with a photo of the meeting. Former Prime Minister Vajpayee died on August 16. He was 93. PTI

## BJP seeks action against Trinamool leader

KOLKATA Birbhum district Trinamool Congress president Anubrata Mondal has landed in a fresh controversy with a video of him purportedly telling his supporters to frame a BJP leader if they cannot control her. The BJP leadership has demanded action against Mr. Mondal. In a party meeting, Mr. Mondal said, "What is the name of the woman? She is a BJP supporter. Tell me whether you can control her. If you cannot, get her arrested." In the video, Agriculture Minister Ashish Banerjee is seen sitting next to Mr. Mondal.

## Hazare to sit on hunger strike from October 2

RALEGAN SIDDIH Social activist Anna Hazare will sit on a hunger strike here from October 2 to highlight issues such as the appointment of Lokpal and welfare measures for the agrarian sector, including a demand for ₹5,000 monthly pension for farmers. According to a statement here on Monday, Mr. Hazare also sought implementation of recommendations made by the Swaminathan Commission to help farmers facing economic crisis. PTI

## Talks on for logistics deal with Russia

Officials hope to conclude consultations before the Modi-Putin annual summit in October

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

India and Russia are in the process of concluding a logistics agreement, with both sides targeting to conclude consultations before the annual summit in October between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The proposed agreement follows a series of such agreements India has signed since the first logistics agreement with the U.S.

## Draft from Moscow

"A draft logistics agreement has come from Russia. At the end of July, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) had sent it to

## Logistics agreement

- Administrative arrangements which give access to each other's military facilities for fuel and rations between partner countries
- India and Russia have had deep military-to-military cooperation for several decades
- The logistics agreement with Russia will be on the lines of the one signed with the U.S. in August 2016
- Apart from this, India has concluded such agreements with France, Oman, the Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia. Australia, too, has sent a draft agreement

the Integrated Defence Staff and the three services for their comments," an official source with knowledge of the matter said.

The Army and Navy have since sent back their obser-

vations on the draft. Another official said the agreement with Russia will be on the lines of those signed with the U.S. and France.

"The idea is to increase our operational flexibility

and we thought we should do one with our long term partner Russia," another official source said.

## Short timeline

While the consultation process is on, officials are working against time to have the agreement ready by October.

"Drafts are being readied. It is work in progress. Time-lines are tight but we will try and aim for the October summit," the source stated.

India signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (LEMOA), with the U.S. in August 2016 after a decade of negotiations.

Since then it has conclud-

ed several such agreements with France, Oman, Philippines, Singapore and for access to the Sabang port in Indonesia.

Australia too has sent a draft agreement.

Logistics agreements are administrative arrangements facilitating access to military facilities for exchange of fuel and provisions on mutual agreement simplifying logistical support and increasing operational turnaround of the military when operating away from India.

Officials underscored the fact that India and Russia have had deep rooted military cooperation for several decades.

## Rawat expresses his displeasure

Unhappy with personnel moving SC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat, has disapproved of the manner in which several hundred Army personnel approached the Supreme Court for protection against prosecution in counter-insurgency areas.

"He does not approve of the manner in which serving personnel approached the court on the issue in an individual capacity. The Army has been following up the issue of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)," an official source said on Monday.



of the AFSPA in the north-east which gives immunity to security forces operating in insurgency-hit areas.

Another official said Gen. Rawat was "annoyed" by the whole thing as it would complicate the Army's own efforts on the issue. "Serving personnel going out of the way sets a wrong precedent. There is a system for it, and the Army has always been with the soldiers on it," the official said.

Gen. Rawat discussed issues such as rations, non-functional upgrade, restructuring of the force, corruption and moral turpitude,

several of which had come to light recently.

## Replace 'Dalit' with SC: I&amp;B Ministry tells media

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has issued an advisory to all media outlets not to use the word "Dalit" to refer to people belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

The advisory is based on an order of the Bombay High Court on June 6, based on a petition filed by Pankaj

Meshram. "It is advised that the media may refrain from using the nomenclature 'Dalit,'" the guideline said.

In a circular on March 15 this year, the Ministry of Social Justice had issued a similar advisory to all State governments that all official communications should use the constitutional term Scheduled Caste instead of the word "Dalit".

## Claim of Maoist plot is 'stupid': Shiv Sena

Says there is no threat to PM Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

ty remains robust and there is no need to worry on that front.

"Manmohan Singh's (Congress-led UPA) government was brought down by the people of this country not by Maoists or Naxalites," the daily said, asking the police to exercise restraint while making claims.

"Had these Maoists possessed power to topple governments, they would not have lost control in West Bengal, Tripura and Manipur. The police (must) exercise restraint while making claims or else Modi and the BJP will be ridiculed once again," the Sena cautioned.

The party, which has ministers in the BJP-led governments in Maharashtra and also at the Centre, said there was nothing to worry about Modi's security.

**Conspiracy theory**  
The BJP ally said the police assertion about security threat to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Maoists was just a "conspiracy theory". The Uddhav Thackeray-led party said Modi's securi-

## Issue caste certificates to candidates in 12 hours

Akali Dal makes demand ahead of Punjab local poll

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the rural polls in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Monday urged the State Election Commissioner to ensure that candidates aspiring to contest from seats reserved for schedule caste and backward classes are issued caste certificates within 12 hours so that no aspirant is deprived of the right to contest.

SAD's senior vice-president Daljeet Singh Cheema, through a letter pointed out that the election schedule was announced on August 29. Since then government offices have been closed. They are to open on September 4, when the process of nomination would begin, leaving the aspirant with no

time to obtain the mandatory certificates. The elections are slated for September 19.

Dr. Cheema said all officials should be directed to ensure that such certificates are delivered instantly but not later than 12 hours.

"If this is not possible, the candidates should be allowed to file nominations along with an affidavit with

an explicit provision to submit such caste certificate later," he added.

Dr. Cheema criticised the Commission for announcing the poll schedule without consulting all parties.

He also hit out at senior AAP leader H.S. Phoolka on his threat to resign from the Punjab Assembly if cases were not registered against former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal by September 15, relating to the police firing incidents at Behbal Kalan and Kotkapura in 2015. "Mr. Phoolka's licence should be revoked by the Bar Council of India immediately for making unconstitutional and illegal demand to register cases on the basis of a fabricated report," said Dr. Cheema.

Daljeet Singh Cheema

## India, Cyprus vow to curb money laundering

Kovind holds talks with Cypriot counterpart Anastasiades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NICOSIA

India and Cyprus on Monday signed two agreements on combating money laundering and cooperation in the field of environment as President Ram Nath Kovind met his Cypriot counterpart Nicos Anastasiades and held wide-ranging talks here.

Mr. Kovind is in Cyprus on the first leg of his three-nation visit to Europe to continue India's high-level engagements with European countries.

**Economic cooperation**  
Mr. Kovind and Mr. Anastasiades exchanged views on economic cooperation.

India was the fastest growing major economy in the world today with a growth rate of 8.2% last quarter, Mr.

Kovind said. "In this context and given Cyprus' niche expertise in financial services and investment banking, both of us agreed that there was much scope to deepen our investment partnership," he said in a statement.

"We welcomed the signing of the MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit, India, and Unit for Combating Money Laundering of Cyprus. This agreement would further strengthen the institutional framework to facilitate investment cross-flows. We also emphasised that the revision in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement made in 2016 provided greater opportunities for our investment partnership to grow," Mr. Kovind said.

External Affairs Ministry

spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in a tweet: "India and Cyprus signed two MoUs [memoranda of understanding] today on combating money laundering and cooperation in the field of environment in the presence of Presidents of both countries." Mr. Kovind and Mr. Anastasiades held discussions on issues of mutual interest, including promotion of business collaboration in the fields of IT, tourism, and renewable energy, Mr. Kumar said.

"President Anastasiades and I held detailed discussions on the way forward for our long-standing relations. I reaffirmed India's unwavering support to Cyprus for upholding its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Mr. Kovind said.

External Affairs Ministry

President Kovind and Mr. Anastasiades exchanged views on economic cooperation.

India was the fastest growing major economy in the world today with a growth rate of 8.2% last quarter, Mr.

**PSU refiners to use Iranian tankers for oil imports**

Move mirrors Beijing's measures to side-step U.S. sanctions

REUTERS  
NEW DELHI

India will allow public sector refiners to import Iranian oil with Tehran arranging tankers and insurance after firms, including the country's top shipper Shipping Corp of India (SCI), halted voyages due to U.S. sanctions, sources said.

New Delhi's attempt to keep Iranian oil flowing mirrors a step by China, where buyers are shifting nearly all their Iranian oil imports to vessels owned by National Iranian Tanker Co (NITC).

The moves by the two top buyers of Iranian crude indicate that the Islamic Republic may not be fully cut off from global oil markets from November, when U.S. sanctions against Tehran's petroleum sector are due to kick in. U.S. President Donald

we cannot go (to Iran)," an SCI official said.

New Delhi turned to the NITC fleet after most insurers and re-insurers had begun winding down services for Iran, wanting to avoid falling foul of the sanctions given their large exposure to the United States.

SCI had a contract until August to import Iranian oil for Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), two sources familiar with the matter said.

The move would benefit Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and MRPL, which plan to lift Iranian cargoes during the rest of the fiscal year. India wants to continue buying oil from Iran as Tehran is offering almost free shipping and an extended credit period.

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

Trump ordered the re-imposition of economic curbs after withdrawing the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. No one trading with Iran will do business with America, he said.

**Insurers back away**  
"We have the same situation (as most Western shippers) because there is no cover, so

The U.S. has asked India to stop importing crude oil from Iran. ■ REUTERS

## ELSEWHERE



## Spain PM proposes new 'autonomy' referendum

MADRID Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Monday proposed holding a referendum in Catalonia on greater autonomy for the wealthy region but ruled out allowing a vote on independence as demanded by Catalan leaders. AFP

## Boko Haram attack in Nigeria kills 48

KANO The death toll from a Boko Haram attack on a Nigerian Army post on the border with Niger has risen to 48, military sources said on Monday. Scores of Boko Haram fighters in trucks stormed the base on Thursday in Zari village in northern Borno State and briefly seized it after a fierce battle. AFP

## Pak. lawmakers to choose new President

ISLAMABAD Pakistani lawmakers are set to choose a new President on Tuesday, an election in which the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Arif Alvi is expected to win as the Opposition parties failed to field a joint candidate. Mr. Alvi is a Karachi-based dentist-turned-politician. PTI

## Myanmar apologises for 'incorrect' photos

YANGON The Myanmar military issued a rare apology on Monday, acknowledging that two photographs it published in a book on the crisis over the Rohingya minority were "published incorrectly". The military's official newspaper, the *Myawaddy Daily*, issued a statement on Monday from its publishing arm. REUTERS

## Xi offers \$60 bn aid to Africa

'The funds will be used to boost industry, counter hunger and enhance security'

ATUL ANEJA  
BEIJING

China has pledged a \$60 billion fund to bolster industry, counter hunger, and enhance security in Africa, a continent that has been chronically plagued by piracy and terrorism.

In his inaugural address at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), President Xi Jinping was authoritative in messaging that Beijing had become the locomotive of Africa's all-round progress.

He listed eight focal areas of funding that would premise the emergence of the "China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era".

Ahead of the presidential address, Chinese officials had cited a 2017 study by McKinsey, a U.S. consulting firm, which had spotlighted that China has become Africa's most important and unrivalled economic partner.

"Across trade, investment, infrastructure financing, and aid, no other country has such depth and breadth of engagement in Africa," the report observed.

Among the eight verticals flagged on Monday, President Xi highlighted China's intent to set up additional economic and trade cooperation zones to promote industrialisation in Africa. Local currency settlements, instead of hard currency usage such as the U.S. dollar, would be encouraged to settle transactions.

**'Debt trap' diplomacy** For financing, China will nudge African countries to tap new multilateral lenders such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the New Development Bank (NDB) of the emerging eco-



China's President Xi Jinping with African leaders in Beijing on Monday. ■ AFP

## People's Daily unveils blueprint for Africa

ATUL ANEJA  
BEIJING

An editorial in *People's Daily*, the flagship of the Communist Party of China (CPC), on Monday unveiled markers for navigating Beijing's ties with Africa in the "new era" of President Xi Jinping.

The signed editorial asserted that through his actions, President Xi has shown that re-engaging Africa was Beijing's top priority.

The daily pointed out that China's ties with Africa were "upgraded" three years ago

during the Johannesburg summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. During that summit, China announced 10 major plans for "in-depth" development, resulting in "China-Africa community with shared future".

The editorial said that China's "new era" approach of "shared interests" sets a model for the rest of the world.

It also contrasted Beijing's outreach towards Africa with the West's sovereignty-sapping interventionist approach.

nomies, as well as the Silk Road Fund marshalled by China.

The Chinese have taken umbrage against allegations of involvement in "debt trap" diplomacy by saddling smaller countries with unpayable loans and using them as levers for political gain. President Xi stressed that out of the \$60 billion

that were on offer, \$15 billion would be disbursed as aid, interest-free loans and concessional loans. A \$20 billion credit line would be established, while another \$10 billion would be channelled into a special fund for China-Africa development. A \$5 billion special fund will also be set up only for African imports.

China would also support Africa to achieve "general food security by 2030," Mr. Xi said.

He pointed out that energy, transport, telecommunications and tapping cross-border water resources would be on China's radar in the next phase of Africa's infrastructural forays. Also, unlike in the past, he openly flagged Beijing's intent to bolster African security.

### Peace and security fund

China, he said, would set up a peace and security fund in partnership with Africa. Apart from military aid to the African Union, Beijing will support countries in the Sahel region and others bordering the piracy-ridden Gulf of Aden and Gulf of Guinea. China has already established a naval base in Djibouti on the edge of the strategic Gulf of Aden, which links the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.

Mr. Xi said 50 China-Africa security assistance programmes will be launched under the flagships Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He also flagged a China-Africa "green envoys programme" that would muscle Africa's capacity for environmental management, pollution prevention and control, as well as green development.

A China-Africa environmental cooperation centre will be set up where research on environmental issues will be conducted. Amid loud applause, President Xi also announced that China will train 1,000 high-calibre Africans, provide 50,000 government scholarships, sponsor seminars and workshops that would benefit 50,000 Africans, and invite 2,000 African youths to visit China for exchanges.

## Myanmar court jails reporters for seven years

They were found guilty of breaching the Official Secrets Act

REUTERS  
YANGON

A Myanmar judge on Monday found two Reuters journalists guilty of breaching a law on state secrets and jailed them for seven years, in a landmark case seen as a test of progress towards democracy in the Southeast Asian country.

Yangon northern district judge Ye Lwin said Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, breached the colonial-era Official Secrets Act when they collected and obtained confidential documents.

"The defendants... have breached Official Secrets Act section 31.c, and are sentenced to seven years," the judge said, adding that the time served since they were detained on December 12 would be taken into account.

The defence can appeal the decision to a regional court and then the Supreme Court.

The verdict comes amid mounting pressure on the government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi over a security crackdown sparked by attacks by insurgents on security forces in Rakhine State in west Myanmar in August 2017.

**Rohingya issue** More than 7,000 stateless Rohingya Muslims have fled into Bangladesh since then, according to UN agencies. The two reporters, who were investigating the killing by the security forces of Rohingya villagers at the time of their arrest, had pleaded not guilty.

"Today is a sad day for Myanmar, Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, and the press everywh-



ere," Reuters editor in chief Stephen J. Adler said in a statement.

"We will not wait while Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo suffer this injustice and will evaluate how to proceed in the coming days, including whether to seek relief in an international forum."

### UN, EU call for reporters' release

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
GENEVA

New UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet said on Monday that she was "shocked" by Myanmar's jailing of two Reuters journalists for seven years and called for their immediate release. "The trial was a travesty of justice," she told reporters on her first day as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Also, the European Union (EU)'s foreign policy service said the sentences "should be reviewed and the two journalists be released immediately and unconditionally".

A spokesman for U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May said: "We are extremely disappointed with this verdict and sentencing and we call for the journalists to be released immediately." The case has sparked an outcry among the international community.

## FB should narrow its definition of terror

It could be used to stifle dissent: envoy

REUTERS  
GENEVA

A UN human rights expert urged Facebook on Monday to narrow its "sweeping" definition of terrorism to stop governments arbitrarily blocking legitimate opposition groups and dissenting voices.

Fionnuala D. Ni Aoláin wrote to Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg saying that Facebook wrongly treats all non-state groups that use violence in pursuit of any goals as terrorist entities.

"The use of such a sweeping definition is particularly worrying in light of a number of governments seeking to stigmatize diverse forms of dissent and opposition (whether peaceful or violent) as terrorism," wrote Ms. Ni Aoláin, UN special rapporteur on protecting human rights while countering terrorism.

**Rebel armed groups** Facebook's policy did not take account of rebel armed groups that comply with international humanitarian law, the letter said.

She did not give examples, but governments facing armed opposition, such as in Syria, frequently label



Fionnuala D. Ni Aoláin, the UN Special Rapporteur.

all their opponents as terrorists.

Ms. Ni Aoláin commended "the important role Facebook plays in offsetting terrorist activity online", but said it must not unduly interfere in the human rights of its users, and should ensure there is a way to challenge wrong decisions.

Overly broad and imprecise definitions of terrorism may lead to "discriminatory implementation, over-censoring and arbitrary denial of access to and use of Facebook's services", she wrote.

Facebook and other social media firms are increasingly involved in regulation that used to be done by states, and are under pressure from governments to police content disseminated by users, she said.

## History lost



**Financial neglect:** A massive fire raced through Brazil's 200-year-old National Museum in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday, probably destroying its collection of more than 20 million items, ranging from archaeological finds to historical memorabilia. The cause was not known but many experts said the museum was reeling from years of financial neglect. ■ REUTERS

## Ukraine launches joint military drills with NATO

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
STARZYCHI

Ukraine on Monday launched joint military exercises with the U.S. and a string of other NATO countries as tensions with Russia remain high over the Kremlin-backed insurgency in the country's east.

The annual Rapid Trident military exercises, taking place in the western Ukrainian village of Starzychi until September 15, involve some 2,200 soldiers from 14 countries.

"(The participants) stand in solidarity with Ukraine, for Ukrainian security, Ukrainian sove-

reignty, and Ukrainian territorial integrity," the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, said at the opening ceremony.

The drills start a week before Russia holds its biggest military exercises since the Cold War, with the participation of China

and Mongolia. A spokesman for the Ukrainian drills, Taras Gren, said that some 350 pieces of military equipment will be used during the exercises.

The Ukrainian Border Guard Service and the National Guard troops will be involved for the first time, he said.

## Pakistan girds for 'exchanges' with Pompeo

His visit will come days after the U.S. cancelled disbursement of funds

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's new Foreign Minister said he will "have exchanges" with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo over Washington's cancellation of a \$300 million disbursement for the Pakistani military when he visits Islamabad on Wednesday.

Adopting a tougher line with an ally that U.S. President Donald Trump considers unreliable, the United States halted the disburse-



Pak. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. ■ AFP

ment of Coalition Support Funds (CSF) due to Islamabad's perceived failure to take decisive action against Afghan Taliban militants operating from Pakistani soil.

The U.S. has now withheld \$800 million from the CSF so far this year. The latest move comes just as the less-than-one-month-old government of Prime Minister Imran Khan faces a looming balance of payments crisis that could force it to seek a fresh bailout from the Inter-

"It is not aid. It is not assistance, which was suspended. This the money, which we have spent..." he said.

In an editorial on Monday, Pakistan's Dawn newspaper railed against the Trump administration's decision to halt the disbursement of funds.

"The U.S. has delivered an object lesson in how not to conduct diplomacy," it said. It went on to speculate whether Mr. Pompeo would "try and bully the Pakistani leadership during his visit or if he will be deployed in a more traditional 'good cop' diplomatic role."

## Boris Johnson steps up criticism of May's Brexit plan

REUTERS  
LONDON

Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit strategy means disaster for Britain, her former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said, as critics at home and officials in Brussels stepped up their opposition to her plans.

With under two months before Britain and the EU want to agree a deal to end over 40 years of union, Ms. May is struggling to sell what she calls her business-friendly Brexit to her own party and across a divided country.

Ms. May's former deputy, Damian Green, described her government as "walking a narrow path with people chucking rocks from both sides" after Mr. Johnson and other lawmakers attacked the so-called Chequers plan. "We will remain in the EU taxi; but this time locked in the boot, with absolutely no say on the destination," Mr. Johnson wrote in Monday's column in The Daily Telegraph.

## MARKET WATCH

	03-09-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,312	-0.86
US Dollar	71.21	-0.30
Gold	31,250	-0.32
Brent oil	78.22	1.00

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	384.45	+1.30
Asian Paints	1361.60	-10.85
Axis Bank	631.80	-17.45
Bajaj Auto	2771.90	+27.05
Bajaj Finserv	6652.90	+94.90
Bajaj Finance	2724.05	+132.55
Bharti Airtel	383.80	-0.05
BPCL	360.10	-2.00
Cipla	649.10	-13.05
Coal India	287.65	+1.70
Dr Reddys Lab	2593.40	+10.40
Eicher Motors	28885.85	+26.10
GAIL (India)	368.30	-3.90
Grasim Ind	1065.95	-1.55
HCL Tech	1049.15	+2.70
HDPC	1944.80	+8.85
HDFC Bank	2075.05	+13.85
Hero MotoCorp	3242.45	+11.35
Hindalco	239.40	+1.45
HPC	257.50	+3.70
Hind Unilever	1699.10	+81.00
Indiabulls HFL	1260.05	+0.80
ICICI Bank	334.15	-8.45
IndusInd Bank	1897.00	-9.60
Bharti Infralet	289.80	+2.90
Infosys	1434.25	+6.85
Indian Oil Corp	155.00	-0.55
ITC	313.20	+6.65
Kotak Bank	1269.10	+18.15
L&T	1363.00	+6.55
Lupin	936.10	+4.65
M&M	947.80	+17.50
Maurti Suzuki	8902.15	+194.25
NTPC	169.50	+2.00
ONGC	177.30	+2.75
PowerGrid Corp	194.50	+7.00
Reliance Ind	1229.15	+12.50
State Bank	306.35	+3.25
Sun Pharma	656.20	+3.35
Tata Motors	266.60	+0.90
Tata Steel	600.75	+0.25
TCS	2052.90	+25.50
Tech Mahindra	745.65	+20.15
Titan	912.75	+20.85
UltraTech Cement	4373.55	+101.95
UPL	720.65	+5.35
Vedanta	228.45	+0.75
Wipro	308.35	+7.10
YES Bank	339.05	+4.45
Zee Entertainment	499.60	+0.35

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.01	71.33
Euro	82.45	82.82
British Pound	91.36	91.78
Japanese Yen (100)	63.88	64.17
Chinese Yuan	10.41	10.46
Swiss Franc	73.16	73.49
Singapore Dollar	51.77	52.00
Canadian Dollar	54.35	54.60
Malaysian Ringgit	17.19	17.29

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	39.9	(40)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2883	(2885)

+ Mazagon eyes ₹850 cr. via IPO

## PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

India's leading warship maker Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. may raise about ₹750-₹850 crore through an initial public offering (IPO) later this month, said sources in the know of the development.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had issued final observations to the IPO on August 10, according to the SEBI website.

According to the DRHP, the government will sell 22.41 million shares, comprising 10% of the offer, excluding shares reserved for staff. "The proceeds from the share sale will accrue to the government. We are in talks with bankers for the share sale," Commodore Rakesh Anand, CMD told *The Hindu*.

## SEBI's KYC circular could impact stocks, rupee: AMRI

Move aims to enhance norms for foreign portfolio investors

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Indian stock markets could tumble and the rupee may fall further ahead of the general elections if a contentious KYC circular issued by the stock market regulator is not scrapped soon, a body of influential foreign funds, managed by persons and institutions of Indian origin, has warned.

Seeking an intervention from the highest level of the government, the Asset Managers' Roundtable of India (AMRI) has said that the circular issued by the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) this April on enhancing the KYC norms for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), has ended up placing a blanket ban on invest-

## SC order: 'Maharashtra will not be hit'

No question of ban on construction as State has a solid waste policy, says Principal Secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI / NEW DELHI / CHANDIGARH / GOA

The Supreme Court order banning construction activity in States that do not have a solid waste management policy should not apply to Maharashtra, said Nitin Katre, the State's Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department. "From what we understand, the honourable court's order does not name any State as such."

"There are two parts to this order. The first is regarding States that had not followed up on the court's earlier order. The second directive pertains to States that do not have a solid waste management policy in place. Maharashtra is not specifically named in this order and this should not be applicable



Double-edged sword: Builders in Chandigarh express concern that the ban may drive up property prices. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

[to] us since we already have such a policy."

"Our lawyers will, on priority basis, inform the court about this; so, there is no question of a blanket ban on construction activities in our State," he said. Mr. Katre added that the State government would also find

stopped. "We understand the Supreme Court's concerns; however, we feel that the court should not stay construction activity as this will have a direct implication on daily wage earners in the industry while GDP could also suffer," Credai National chairman, Getamber Anand said in a statement.

Meanwhile, builders in Chandigarh expressed concern that the ban may drive up property prices in the city. This, according to real estate consultants, could be a double-edged sword.

"The ban would [drive escalation of] property prices in Chandigarh, which will certainly benefit the real estate business," Kulbir Singh, real estate consultant at Northern Estates based at TDI city, told *The Hindu*.

"Chandigarh is a place where despite high prices of property, people tend to invest due to its well-established infrastructure."

## 'Exorbitant prices'

However, there is also a possibility that market may, after reaching a point, get stagnant because exorbitant prices will turn away the buyer," he added.

The Goa Foundation, an environmental, non-governmental organisation welcomed the order.

Incidentally, the Supreme Court order was based on a suggestion to this effect made by Additional Solicitor General for the Ministry of Environment & Forests, A.N.S. Nadkarni, said Claude Alvares, director, Goa Foundation.

## 'No construction sans solid waste management policy'

SC imposes costs on errant States, UT

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said it was "pathetic" that some States and Union Territories had not bothered to frame a solid waste management policy.

The court ordered that further construction activities be stopped in some States and Union Territories that remained unmindful of the interests of their people to live in a clean environment.



least. Further constructions in the States/Union Territories are stayed until the policy is framed," the Supreme Court observed in its order on August 31.

## Next hearing on Oct. 9

The court scheduled the case for further hearing on October 9. It is hearing the case *suo motu* since the death of a seven-year-old boy due to dengue in Delhi in 2015.

Justice Lokur had condemned the attitude of the authorities at one point, saying "if they want the people to live in dirt, filth and garbage, what can be done then."

During the earlier hearing on July 10, some States did not attend court.

Hence, the Bench imposed ₹1 lakh each on the defaulting States and UTs whose lawyers were present in court. These included Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Punjab, West Bengal, Lakshadweep and Puducherry. For the remaining States/Union Territories, who were either not present or not represented by lawyers, the burden of costs went up to ₹2 lakh.

## Rupee hits yet another low, Sensex drops 332 points

Bond yields rose above 8% for first time in almost 4 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Rising oil prices and contagion risks from emerging markets pushed the rupee to a fresh all-time low. It ended at 71.21 to the dollar, compared with Friday's close of 71, fall of about 0.3%.

The yield on the 10-year benchmark bond also closed above 8% for the first time in almost four years.

## 'Global factors'

"The fall in the rupee is mainly due to global factors such as higher oil prices, and also there was large-scale outflow from the equity and bond markets," said Anindya Banerjee, currency



strategist, Kotak Securities. Brent crude oil rose 0.57% to \$78.08 a barrel. He said speculators in the offshore market are also active, adding to the pressure.

"Weakening of other currencies like lira also added to the pressure. Now that every week the rupee is hitting

[fresh] lows, speculators are quite emboldened... which is mainly happening in the offshore market, and about which the RBI can do nothing."

"It may head to... 72 in a couple of weeks, unless we see a dramatic turnaround in emerging market currencies, which is unlikely."

For the equity indices, a sell-off in the last hour of trade erased gains made on Monday, with the BSE Sensex falling 0.86%, to end at 38,312.52. The NSE Nifty lost 98.15 points to close at 11,582.35. FMCG stocks were the biggest laggards while banks, energy, IT and infrastructure shares also fell.

## Jet's loss may widen to \$500 mn'

Ownership change needed for long-term viability: CAPA



but the airline once again is confronted with a challenging situation. "The core challenge for the airline is the unviability of its domestic operations which contribute close to 50% of total revenue," CAPA India said.

It said "cost-cutting initiatives and funds raised through lease incentives or by selling and leasing-back owned aircraft may not be sufficient to stem the quantum of losses without addressing the underlying business model."

The firm said Jet had neglected its domestic business for the last decade, leaving with a weak product and an uncompetitive cost base. "To secure Jet's long term-viability, timely recapitalisation and restructuring should be accompanied by fresh thinking, which could include a change of ownership," it added.

Jet Airways is headed for a full-year loss of \$500 million and a change of ownership may be necessary to secure its long-term viability, Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) India said in a report. Jet Airways has been in perpetual restructuring mode for the last five years. But despite the notable improvements in productivity and reduction in non-fuel costs, this has not delivered a financial turnaround," it said.

Breathing space

CAPA said the investment from Etihad in 2013 had provided some breathing space, it added.

## Gammon referred to NCLT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

State-run lender Union Bank of India has filed a bankruptcy petition against infrastructure developer Gammon India at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for a loan default of ₹315 crore.

Gammon India has outstanding dues of about ₹7,000 crore to lenders, including Union Bank. After it defaulted on loans in October 2015, the loans were restructured under the corporate debt restructuring (CDR) scheme.

The RBI, however, in February, withdrew all debt recast schemes and asked banks for resolution of stressed assets within a time frame, failing which banks need to initiate

**About 1,800 businesses may migrate to GST**

**NEW DELHI** About 1,800 businesses that were registered under VAT and service tax regime have applied for migrating to the GST regime. The GST Council, in July, had allowed businesses with provisional GST ID to migrate to the GST regime. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs had then asked them to approach the jurisdictional nodal officer of the Centre or States before August 31. PTI

**Manipal to buy strategic stake in Cigna TTK**

**NEW DELHI** Manipal Group, which runs a chain of multi-speciality hospitals, is buying a strategic stake in Cigna TTK Health Insurance Company from the TTK Group for an undisclosed sum. As per the deal, Manipal Group will hold 16.04%, while TTK Group will own the balance 34.96% stake in the health insurance venture. Consequently, Manipal Group and TTK Group will jointly hold 51% stake in the company. PTI

**Wipro shares surge on bagging 'biggest' order**

**NEW DELHI** Shares of Wipro on Monday surged by more than 8% in the morning trade on the BSE after it announced on Sunday that it had bagged \$1.5 billion deal from Alight Solutions, its biggest deal till date. It will provide solutions and services to the Illinois-based firm that provides technology-enabled health, wealth, HR and finance solutions. The share touched a high of ₹328, an increase of 8.73%, before closing the day at ₹309.15. PTI

# M&M unveils Marazzo at ₹9.99 lakh

Passenger vehicle to compete with the Toyota Innova, Tata Hexa; all four variants powered by diesel

**LALATENDU MISHRA**  
NASHIK

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Ltd. on Monday unveiled Marazzo, a passenger vehicle, at an ex-showroom price of ₹9.99 lakh. The top variant is priced at ₹13.99 lakh (ex-showroom all India).

The company introduced four variants, all with diesel engines. The automatic and petrol variants will be introduced after the roll-out of BS-VI norms in 2020.

Developed in engineering collaboration between Mahindra Automotive North America (MANA), Detroit and Mahindra Research Valley (MRV), Chennai, the Marazzo has been designed by Pininfarina, Italy, and Mahindra's design studio in Mumbai. M&M had invested



**Game changer:** Mahindra & Mahindra chairman Anand Mahindra at the unveiling of the Marazzo at the company's Nashik plant on Monday. ■ PAUL NORONHA

\$200 million (more than ₹1,400 crore) to develop the vehicle, which would compete with the Toyota Innova and Tata Hexa. It took four years for Mahindra to deve-

lop this vehicle, which has a completely new engine.

The 'people's carrier', as M&M puts it, is available both in seven and eight seater configurations. Its design

is said to be inspired by a shark's features.

With a 1.5 litre 4-cylinder engine, the vehicle offers an ARAI-certified mileage of 17.3 kmpl, according to the

company.

**'Joint effort'**

"The introduction of Marazzo is a defining moment in the automotive journey of Mahindra not only within India, but globally as well. This is the first product that has been successfully jointly developed by our teams in three continents," said M&M chairman Anand Mahindra.

"The Scorpio was a steep jump in our ambition as an auto-maker. The XUV was a leap of faith in design and Marazzo is a leap of faith in global collaboration. It is proof of a concept of global network of R&D working together to make a world-class product," Mr. Mahindra told *The Hindu*.

(The writer was in Nashik at the invitation of M&M)

## Tamilnadu Petroproducts returns to profit mode

Sells non-core assets, shuts down loss-making unit

**N. ANAND**  
CHENNAI

Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd. (TPL) has wiped out its accumulated losses and started focusing on two core areas of linear alkyl benzene (LAB) and chlor alkali business, according to Ashwin C. Muthiah, vice-chairman.

"We turned the company [around] by shutting down the loss-making ECH (epichlorohydrin) unit and selling non-core assets to meet operational requirements," he said.

"With this, the company was able to repay its long-term debts and reduce financing costs," he added.

Having posted losses continuously from 2013-14 to



Ashwin C. Muthiah

due to stiff competition and adverse market conditions. This was coupled with continuous cash losses for years attributable to technical issues, low productivity, rising costs and under investment besides servicing cost of debt, he said.

**New strategy**

"We will now focus on LAB and heavy chemicals division (HCD) and commence propylene oxide (PO) plant in our ECH facility," he said.

According to Mr. Muthiah, TPL would make further investments across both LAB and HCD facilities to improve production and productivity over the next couple of years.

## Paytm Money unveils app

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU

Paytm Money Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of One97 Communications Limited, introduced a dedicated app on Google's Android platform and Apple's mobile operating system iOS with the aim of doubling the mutual fund investor base in India to 50 million in the next five years.

The firm would focus on building investments and wealth management products and services.

"With Paytm Money, we want to democratise and bring mutual fund investments to millions of Indians," said Vijay Shekhar Sharma, founder and CEO, Paytm, in a statement.

## Vedanta Resources: decks clear for delisting on Oct. 1

Minority shareholders agree to sell shares

**VIDYA RAM**  
LONDON

Vedanta Resources, the first Indian company to have gained a premium listing on the London Stock Exchange, is expected to be delisted on October 1, after minority investors agreed to sell their shares to the family investment vehicle of its executive chairman Anil Agarwal.

On Monday, Volcan Investments Limited, the holding company wholly owned by Mr. Agarwal's discretionary trust, said it now held or had received acceptances of its offer on 92.31% of Vedanta Resources share capital and the cash offer had now become unconditional in all

## Reserve Bank tightens ombudsman scheme

Stipulates criteria for appointments

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India has tightened the banking ombudsman scheme with the objective to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism for customers.

The banking regulator has asked all commercial banks having 10 or more banking outlets to have an independent internal ombudsman (IO) to review customer complaints that are either partly or fully rejected by the banks.

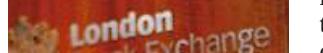
"The IO shall, inter alia, examine customer complaints which are in the nature of deficiency in service on the part of the bank, that are partly or wholly rejected by the bank," RBI said in a statement. The instructions

are not applicable for Regional Rural Banks sponsored by commercial banks.

As banks should internally escalate complaints that are not fully redressed to their respective IOs before conveying the final decision to the complainant, customers need not approach the IO directly, the RBI said.

**Fixed term**

According to bankers, the Internal Ombudsman Scheme of 2018 mandates banks to grant a fixed term of three to five years, which cannot be renewed, to the IO. The IO can be removed only with prior approval from RBI. The remuneration would have to be decided by the customer sub-committee of the board.



Anil Agarwal  
respects. The offer remains open for acceptances until further notice.

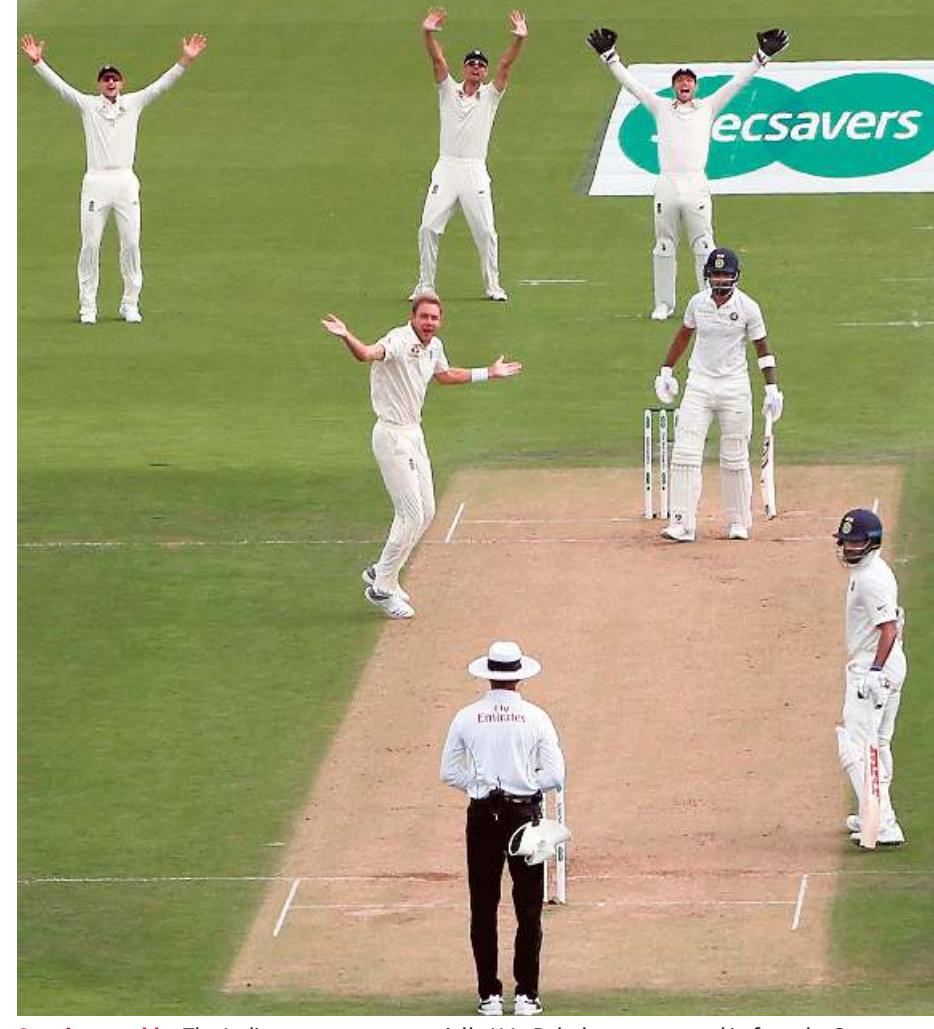
**All-cash offer**

The effort to take Vedanta Resources private has moved rapidly from early Ju-

ly, when the plan to acquire the 33.47% that it did not own was announced by Volcan Investments, valuing the company at £2.325 billion (\$3.03 billion). The all-cash offer of £8.25 a share marked a 28% premium on the closing price of Vedanta Resources on the Friday before the offer was announced.

The offer was recommended by an independent committee of the company which described the offer as an "attractive" one that secured "delivery of future value today in cash, whilst providing shareholders with the ability, should they choose, to retain exposure to the Vedanta Group growth story."

# India's failure to seize the moment costs it again



**Starting trouble:** The Indian openers – especially K.L. Rahul, seen trapped in front by Stuart Broad at Southampton – have failed to provide the starts required for a successful chase.

REUTERS

## Cook calls time on his international career

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA  
SOUTHAMPTON

Alastair Cook has announced his retirement from international cricket, with the fifth Test against India at the Oval set to be his last. The 33-year-old opener is England's all-time leading run-scorer and the sixth-highest run-scorer in Test history.

"After much thought and deliberation over the last few months I have decided to announce my retirement from international cricket at the end of this Test series against India," he said in a statement on Monday.

### Giving his all

"Although it is a sad day, I can do so with a big smile on my face knowing I have given everything and there is nothing left in the tank. I have achieved more than I could have ever imagined and feel very privileged to have played for such a long time alongside some of the

greats of the English game."

Cook has played 160 Test matches, with 12,254 runs to his name. He made his Test debut in Nagpur in 2006 at the age of 21, and scored a century in the second innings. He played a key role in England's historic Ashes win in Australia in 2010, scoring 766 runs. Two years later, he led from the front as England won a Test series in India after 28 years.

Cook has been in poor form of late, however, averaging 18.62 from nine Tests this year.

"I have loved cricket my whole life from playing in the garden as a child and will never underestimate how special it is to pull on an England shirt," he said.

### Thanks Gooch

Cook made it a point to thank Graham Gooch, who was his mentor at Essex and England, and whose record as England's leading run-scorer he surpassed in 2015.



Alastair Cook. ■ AFP

"Graham was my sounding board, especially in the early years of my career, spending hour after hour throwing balls at me with his dog stick. He made me realise you always need to keep improving whatever you are trying to achieve."

## BCCI members dilly-dally on SC order

Associations interpreting Apex Court order in their own convenient way'

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

It's been a little over three weeks since the Supreme Court appeared to have said the last word on the implementation of the Justice Lodha Committee Reforms in cricket administration, specifying timelines for registration of the new BCCI Constitution with the Registrar of Societies in Chennai (Tamil Nadu).

And, for members to follow suit within one month and report compliance to the Committee of Administrators (CoA).

The Supreme Court order of August 9 was clear: it asked the Registrar of Societies, Tamil Nadu to register the new BCCI Constitution as soon as the BCCI CEO presented the relevant documents.

While the authorities in Chennai registered the constitution on August 21, there has not been the slightest hint of BCCI members showing any urgency to amend its Constitution and registering it with the local authorities.

The Supreme Court had said the CoA should submit a Status Report on compliance by BCCI members.

"There is a two-member CoA running the Mumbai Cricket Association; they

Tripura, Vidarbha and Hyderabad were said to have implemented the Lodha Reforms, but there are anomalies

could have amended the MCA Constitution and registered the new constitution with the State Charity Commissioner's office.

If the BCCI can do it why not the MCA CoA? Many associations are interpreting the Supreme Court order in their own convenient way. Tripura, Vidarbha and Hyderabad were said to have implemented the Lodha Reforms, but there are anomalies," said a BCCI official.

As of now the BCCI members are trying to figure out disqualification clause 6 (5f) spelt out in the August 9 order of the Supreme Court.

It says: "a person shall be disqualified from being an office-bearer, a member of the Governing Council or any committee or a representative to the ICC or any similar organisation if he or she has been an office-bearer of the BCCI for a cumulative period of nine years or of a State association for a cumulative period of nine years."

## Nadal sets up a quarterfinal date with Thiem

del Potro and Isner also make the last eight; Serena survives Kanepi scare

### Passing shots



#### IT AIN'T HEAVY, IT'S MY TROPHY

Rafael Nadal was asked if the three US Open trophies he had lifted were heavy even for his toned, muscular arms.

"It is not very, very heavy. That's a good thing. Another good thing is that when you win the US Open, the trophy that you bring back home is the same as the original one. The other tournaments, especially the Grand Slams, they make a copy, but very small!"

#### ACE METER

##### Men

Isner	112
Raonic	75
Anderson	64
Thiem	53
Kyrgios	52

##### Women

Serena	47
Pliskova	26
Garcia	24
Barty	22
Goerges	22

#### IT WAS THREE VERY NICE EXPERIENCES AND SEVEN HORRIBLE EXPERIENCES

Dominic Thiem on his 7-3 record against Rafael Nadal who he will face in the quarterfinals on Tuesday

### US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
REUTERS  
NEW YORK

Defending champion Rafael Nadal on Sunday reached the US Open quarterfinals for the eighth time where he will face Dominic Thiem, one of only three men to defeat him in 2018.

World No. 1 Nadal saw off a battling Nikoloz Basilashvili, the first Georgian in a fourth round in New York, 6-3, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-4.

Elsewhere, Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 champion, beat Borna Coric 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 to make the last-eight for a third successive year.

#### Century of aces

The third seeded Argentine will next face John Isner, the last American man standing, who defeated Milos Raonic 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, taking his tournament aces total past the 100-mark.

Thiem, who beat Nadal on clay in Madrid in the run-up to Paris, booked his place in the quarterfinals for the first time with a 7-5, 6-2, 7-6(2) win over 2017 runner-up Kevin Anderson.

Nadal leads their head-to-head 7-3 with all of their matches coming on clay courts, including in the final of Roland Garros in June when he captured an 11th French Open.

"Against Rafa, I've had



Easing through: Juan Martin del Potro had the measure of Borna Coric in straight sets. ■ AFP

three very nice experiences and seven horrible experiences," said Thiem who turned 25 on Monday.

#### Roller-coaster ride

Meanwhile, Serena Williams survived a scare from giant-killer Kaia Kanepi to claim a roller-coaster 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 win and move a step closer to a record-equalling 24th

#### THE RESULTS

**Men:** Fourth round: 21-Kelvin Nishikori (Jpn) bt Philipp Kohlschreiber (Ger) 6-3, 6-2, 7-5; 1-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt Nikoloz Basilashvili (Geo) 6-3, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-4.

9-Dominic Thiem (Aut) bt 5-Kevin Anderson (RSA) 7-5, 6-2, 7-6(2); 3-Juan Martin del Potro (Arg) bt 20-Borna Coric (Croatia) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 11-John Isner (USA) bt 25-Milos Raonic (Bel) 6-3, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

**Doubles:** Third round: 15-Rohan Bopanna (Ind) & E. Roger



Barcelona hammers Huesca

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BARCELONA

Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez scored twice each as La Liga champion Barcelona turned on the style to hammer Huesca 8-2 on Sunday while Real Betis ended a 12-year wait for a home victory over local rival Sevilla by winning the local derby 1-0.

The thrashing lifted Barca above Real Madrid at the top of the La Liga standings on goal difference after three games. It was Barcelona's biggest win in the league since thumping Deportivo La Coruna 8-0 away from home in April, 2016.

**The results:** La Liga: Barcelona 8 (Messi 16, 61, Pujol 24, Suárez 39, 90+3-pen, Dembele 48, Rakitic 52, Jordi Alba 81) bt Huesca 2 (Hernández 3, Alex Gallar 42); Levante 2 (Roger 13, 34) drew with Valencia 2 (Cheryshev 16, Parejo 52-pen); Alaves 2 (Borja 57, Sobrino 59) bt Espanyol 1 (Leao Baptista 42-pen); Real Betis 1 (Joaquín 80) bt Sevilla 0.

**Serie A:** Fiorentina 1 (Benassi 73) bt Udinese 0; Lazio 1 (Alberto 49) bt Frosinone 0; Atalanta 0 lost to Cagliari 1 (Barella 45); Sassuolo 5 (Boateng 34, Liro 38, Babacar 41, Spolli 45+2+0, Ferreri 62) bt Genoa 3 (Piatek 27, 83, Pandev 70); Chievo 0 drew with Empoli 0; Sampdoria 3 (Defrel 11, 32, Quagliarella 75) bt Napoli 0.

A ND-NDE

Just like in South Africa, Kohli's men were not able to summon their best under pressure

### INDIA IN ENGLAND

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA  
SOUTHAMPTON

India returned from South Africa early this year with the feeling that it had come tantalisingly close to a series victory.

The margins of defeat in the first two Tests had not been big, but more notable was the sense that there had been moments in those matches when India had had more than a foot in the door.

#### What-ifs

Virat Kohli's men will head into the fifth Test at the Oval with the same sense of disappointment, the same regrets, the same what-ifs.

But there is also something to be said for performing under pressure, for seizing the smallest opportunities, for being ruthless: it is what separates great teams from good ones.

It is where India has failed.

At Edgbaston, England was 87 for seven in the second innings, leading by only 100 runs. But Sam Curran smashed the ball around, and the home side wriggled out of a tight spot.

At the Ageas Bowl, England was 86 for six in the first innings; Curran intervened again. And when India, in reply, seemed set for a healthy lead at 142 for two, there was a batting collapse.

"We know that we have played good cricket but we cannot say again and again to ourselves that we have competed," Kohli admitted later.

"When you come so close, there is an art of crossing the

line as well, which we will have to learn.

"We have the ability, which is why we are getting close to a result.

"But when a pressure situation comes, how we react to it is something we have to work on a bit.

"We can look at the scoreboard and say we were only 30 runs away or 50 runs away, but we have to recognise that when we are in the

midst of the situation, and not later."

India's weaknesses have been obvious. The openers – except in the Trent Bridge Test – have simply not made useful contributions.

K.L. Rahul is a gifted batsman – one with hundreds in all three formats, and capable of switching gears effortlessly.

But he now has a top score of 36 from his last 12 innings (excluding the Afghanistan Test), having failed to make a mark in South Africa or England.

This series, he has been troubled by the ball that jags back in, and England's bowlers have been merciless.

In the absence of Murali Vijay, there is a greater responsibility on Rahual; the team needs him to make big runs, now and in the future.

Shikhar Dhawan deserves some credit for showing the stomach for a fight after a poor first Test.

But the fact remains that his top score from six innings this series has been 44.

At Newlands, India was 39 for three chasing 208 for victory; at Edgbaston, 46 for three chasing 162; and on Sunday, 22 for three chasing

Numbers six, seven and eight scored 48 runs in total for India in the fourth Test; batsmen in the same three positions added 278 runs to England's cause.

This highlights England's strength in depth – Jos Buttler and Curran are very good players to have at 7 and 8 – but it also illustrates that India cannot rely on anyone after Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane.

On Sunday, as Ultra Edge on the big screen confirmed that Kohli was indeed out, he trudged off wearily, too dejected to even respond to Stuart Broad's taunts.

Perhaps he knew, deep inside, that it was all over.

## Team over-reliant on Kohli, says Kapil

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

NEW DELHI

England played "better" even as India continued to depend too much on Virat Kohli. This observation from Kapil Dev put in perspective India's loss to England at Southampton.

Kapil did not believe, though, that cricket was a one-man game. Kapil said, "Cricket is a team game. Kohli is an important player. You do



THE HINDU NOIDA/DELHI  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

## TV PICKS

**Duleep Trophy:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.  
**US Open:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m., SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



Vandoorne leaving McLaren at season's end

LONDON  
Belgian driver Stoffel Vandoorne will leave McLaren at the end of the season, the Formula One team said on Monday. The 26-year-old Vandoorne has raced in 34 Grands Prix since his debut in 2016, but he has struggled this season and is 16th in the standings with just eight points. AFP

**Ronaldo buys 51% of Valladolid**

MADRID  
Former Brazilian striker Ronaldo has taken control of Real Valladolid after buying 51% of the La Liga club's shares, it was announced on Monday. AFP



Steve Smith out of CPL with abdominal strain

SYDNEY  
Suspended Australia cricket captain Steve Smith is returning home from the Caribbean Premier League after suffering an abdominal strain. Smith was due to play for the Barbados Tridents on Monday against the St. Lucia Stars, but was a late withdrawal. AP

**Zeel advances**

SPORTS BUREAU  
Nonthaburi, Thailand

Zeel Desai outplayed Pat Vasuratna of Thailand 6-1, 6-0 in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Thailand on Monday.

**The results: € 127,000 Challenger men, Genoa, Italy Qualifying singles (third and final round):** Sumit Nagal bt Juan Pablo Varillas (Per) 6-1, 6-4.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Nonthaburi, Thailand Singles (first round):** Pruchya Isaro (Tha) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2, 6-2.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Yuichi Ito (Jpn) & Karunuday Singh bt Adam El Mihdawy & Tyler Mercier (US) 6-1, 7-6(1); Pruchya Isaro (Tha) & Kelsey Stevenson (Can) bt Shabbaaz Khan & Nitin Kumar Sinha 1-2 (retired);

**\$15,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Singles (first round):** Zeel Desai bt Pat Vasuratna (Tha) 6-1, 6-0.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Punnin Kovapitukted & Tamanchan Momkoonthod (Tha) bt Sai Samitha & Natasha Palha 6-4, 6-7(5), [12-10]; Ho Ching Wu (Hkg) & Riya Bhatia bt Jaxi Lu (Chn) & Shelby Talcott (US) 2-6, 6-3, [10-7]; Kamonwan Buayam & Patcharin Cheapchandej (Tha) bt Sowjanya Bavisetti & Preerna Bhambri 6-2, 1-6, [10-7].

# Dry pitch could assist spinners

India Blue meets India Red in the summit clash

## DULEEP TROPHY

S. DINAKAR  
DINDIGUL

Driving through the heartland of Tamil Nadu, past verdant fields and tranquil villages, it does seem incomprehensible that you are on your way to watch a Duleep Trophy final.

Taking cricket to far-flung venues – Nantham, near Dindigul, in this case – is a welcome move by the Board.

And the NPR College ground with a lush green outfield is a luscious venue.

But then, there is little grass on the pitch. And it is here that the BCCI often does not get it right.

Domestic competitions need to be played on green pitches to enable emerging batsmen get used to bounce and seam movement.

On such tracks, batsmen can develop their footwork, improve judgment of line. Picking the length, travelling forward in a decisive manner or going deep into the crease – back-foot play is so crucial – is an essential part of the



**Ready to pouch:** India Blue's Smit Patel goes through the drills with fitness trainer Rajesh Chauhan. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

learning curve.

And the Board, on several occasions, has missed the trick. It's not surprising that India's Test record outside the North and West Zone, a particularly fierce rivalry, or South against either North or West. Now, we have teams without identity, India Blue, Red and Green. Does anyone remember who won the tournament last season?

But the competition does provide a stage for promising cricketers.

India Blue's strokeful Dhruv Shorey has sparked with 275 runs at 68.75. And India Red's reliable opener Sanjay Ramaswamy has 238

at 79.33. Baba Aparajith, compact and efficient, has 191 at 63.66.

Among the bowlers, India Blue left-arm spinner Saubhab Kumar has 14 scalps at 18.78. He might have a chunky role in the final where the rather dry pitch could assist spinners midway through the second day and batting last could be hazardous.

## Mithun out with injury

India Red paceman Abhimanyu Mithun is out with an ankle strain. With left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem and seamer Rajneesh Guriani joining the India-A ranks against Australia-A, Red's attack has been weakened.

However, paceman Prasidh Krishna and wicket-keeper-batsman Ishan Kishan have come in for Red. Heavy-hitter Deepak Hooda will bolster India Blue.

In a game where the spinners could be influential, India Red off-spinner Parvez Rasool and leggie Mihir Hirwani could provide turning points.

Play starts at 1.30 p.m.

# Top Indians in the fray

Hong Kong fields a big squad

## HYDERABAD OPEN

V.V. SURBAHMANIYAM  
HYDERABAD

The growing stature of Indian badminton was evident when the big guns including Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu, K. Srikanth and H.S. Prannoy were training at Gopi Academy on Monday even as the second rung players were slugging it out in practice sessions at the nearby Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, venue of the IDBI Federal Life Insurance - sponsored Hyderabad Open from Tuesday.

A far cry from the days when the same lead players were desperate to take part in any international event as they grew up to make an impact on the world stage.

## The seedings (singles):

**Men:** 1. Sameer Verma (Ind), 2. B. Sai Praneeth (Ind), 3. Zilberman Misha (Isr), 4. Parupalli Kashyap (Ind), 5. Sourabh Verma (Ind), 6. Maulana Panji Ahmad (Inda), 7. Abdul Firman Kholik (Inda) and 8. Hee Heo Kwang (Kor).

**Women:** 1. Ayustine Dinar Dyah (Inda), 2. Mainakina Lyanny Alessandra (Inda), 3. Tam Britney (Can), 4. Deng Joy Xuan (Hkg), 5. K. Sri Krishna Priya (Ind), 6. Russell Hartawan (Inda), 7. G. Ruthika Shivani (Ind) and 8. Mugda Agrey (Ind).

their skills.

Hong Kong is fielding one of the biggest squads and the way they were enthusiastic during the training session, they meant business clearly.

Interestingly, none of the Chinese players figure in this event.

Some of the familiar names in men's singles from India include B. Sai Praneeth, Sameer Verma, Sourabh Verma, and Lakshya Sen (seeded 10th here).

The qualifying round will begin on Tuesday and the main draw on Wednesday.

## The seedings (singles):

**Men:** 1. Sameer Verma (Ind), 2. B. Sai Praneeth (Ind), 3. Zilberman Misha (Isr), 4. Parupalli Kashyap (Ind), 5. Sourabh Verma (Ind), 6. Maulana Panji Ahmad (Inda), 7. Abdul Firman Kholik (Inda) and 8. Hee Heo Kwang (Kor).

**Women:** 1. Ayustine Dinar Dyah (Inda), 2. Mainakina Lyanny Alessandra (Inda), 3. Tam Britney (Can), 4. Deng Joy Xuan (Hkg), 5. K. Sri Krishna Priya (Ind), 6. Russell Hartawan (Inda), 7. G. Ruthika Shivani (Ind) and 8. Mugda Agrey (Ind).

# Gill sets the pace

## DAKSHIN DARE

RAYAN ROZARIO  
CHITRADURGA

Delhi's Gaurav Gill has made even the best of terrains in both India and abroad look simple through his aggressive driving skills and great control of the machine. But for once, he played it safe and secure to finish on top on day one of the 10th Maruti Suzuki Dakshin Dare 2018 here on Monday.

After driving through the rather treacherous terrains early in the day, the APRC star admitted that they were still getting used to the fact that it's an open rally. "It's a little strange or weird, I must say, that we didn't have the pace notes or any information about the stages. Obviously, we had to try and get used to it. We knew it was going to be rough but it was tougher than what we had anticipated but, we clocked some good times."

He said the terrain was loaded with rocks and boulders. "It was for almost half the course, and it was both tricky and challenging as well. I quickly learnt to pick up the right lines, which is the most important thing to do. Also, the road, at times, was very wide so you need to spot the smooth areas while driving 100kms per

hour," he added.

Gill's most trusted partner and co-driver Musa Sherif was happy that they had a clean drive. "We followed whatever instructions that was given in the road book. Frankly, we took some time to understand."

Team Mahindra's other driver Philippus Mathai (P.V.S. Murthy) played it cool as well to finish behind Gill and ahead of his teammate Amitrajit Ghosh, who lost a lot of time fighting a flat tyre in the very first stage. "We were in the dust the whole stage. In INRC you will never get to see a terrain like this. "It was very hard to judge the pace, which is something we'll have to learn quickly," said Ghosh.

Defending champion Sunresh Rana (co-driver Chirag Thakur) of Team Maruti Suzuki, however, did not enjoy a great day out as a result of a flat front tyre. "We lost precious minutes in the first stage but we can make up for the lost time," said Rana.

**The results (provisional, day one):**

**Cars:** 1. Gaurav Gill & Musa Sherif (Team Mahindra Adventure) 2:25:47; 2. Philippus Mathai & P.V.S. Murthy 2:30:19; Amitrajit Ghosh & Ashwin Naik 2:30:24.

**Bikes:** 1. Yuvakumar 1:43:30; 2. Vishwas 1:48:22; 3. Akash 1:49:29.



**Aggressive:** Gaurav Gill of Team Mahindra Adventure in action. ■ RAYAN ROZARIO

# Asiad shows new trend, says Kapil Dev

"Sometimes you have to find the opportunity and write your destiny"

VIJAY LOKAPALLY  
NEW DELHI

For Kapil Dev, the Asian Games was a "thrilling" experience because it showcased a rising India where youngsters from varied backgrounds have learnt to win medals at big sporting platforms.

"I am proud to be here," he said at the announcement of the Territorial Army and Athletics Federation of India (TAAFI) run to be held on October 2.

Kapil, in his capacity as Honorary Lt. Col. of the Territorial Army, is also the Brand Ambassador for the event which is being promoted as the official National Marathon of India. It will, however, be run as a Half-Marathon this year.

"The background of a player doesn't matter anymore. Hima (Das) is a real inspiration," said Kapil in reference to the growing number of success stories in Indian sport where teenagers from non-sporting and

humble background have emerged as champions.

"Most of them have come from humble backgrounds, but that has not stopped them from winning medals. Our boys and girls have done exceptionally well. Today no one can say I cannot do well because I didn't get the opportunity."

"Sometimes you have to find the opportunity and write your destiny. Sport is about celebrations and there

is no room for nepotism, which can take you only up to a certain level. It doesn't work in athletics which has measurable events," Kapil said.

The former India captain praised the efforts of various federations too. "You can't do such good without the federations. The athletes are shining and the Asian Games has shown the new trend in Indian sport. I am proud of our medal winners."

Kapil War veteran Maj. D.P. Singh, who is also India's first blade runner, said: "We should promote running because it doesn't require expensive infrastructure and equipment. Running can certainly make India a fit country."



**Star presence:** TAAFI Brand Ambassador Kapil Dev and Kargil War veteran Maj. D.P. Singh at the announcement of the TAAFI run to be held on October 2. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On behalf of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), Sandeep Mehta offered "unstinted" support for the marathon. "Two of our gold medallists are from Army," Mehta said.

The AFI will also recognise this marathon as a pre-requisite for athletes to qualify in various international marathons.

Lt. Col. Surender Singh promised to make the marathon a "popular part of the Indian athletics calendar. We want to promote distance running."

For Siddhartha Upadhyay of STAIRS, the marathon was a welcome venture. "We need more such events. Let it be a national movement," he observed.

Kargil War veteran Maj. D.P. Singh, who is also India's first blade runner, said: "We should promote running because it doesn't require expensive infrastructure and equipment. Running can certainly make India a fit country."

# Will it be the sixth for Ronaldo?

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Cristiano Ronaldo faces stiff competition from former Real Madrid teammate Luka Modric and Egypt's Mohamed Salah to be crowned FIFA's player of the year for a sixth time.

Ronaldo was the competition's top scorer in lifting a fourth Champions League title in five years.

Modric won the Golden Ball for the best player at the World Cup.

Salah scored 44 goals in an incredible debut season for Liverpool.

France's World Cup-winning manager Didier Deschamps, Zlatko Dalic and Zinedine Zidane were nominated as the finalists for FIFA's coach of the year award on Monday.

Deschamps became just the third man to win the World Cup as a player and coach with victory over Dalic's Croatia in July's final in Russia.

with the media organised by the Calcutta Sports Journalists Club on Monday.

"More than being a mere individual glory, this success is making us happy because this will bring about a change in the approach towards the game and we are hopeful of seeing more Indians participating in the next Asian Games," Bardhan added.

Recounting the indifference about the game he faced from people at different stages, Bardhan said that the Asian Games success is likely to change it.

"In 2002 when I was applying to renew my passport to travel to Montreal to participate in a tournament, the passport officer had asked me why I was so keen about gambling," Bardhan said recounting the misconceptions even the educated people had about the game.

"People had a lot of misconceptions about Bridge while most of them thought it was another form of gambling."

"The Asian Games gold will convince those people that like chess, bridge is also game that is about the science of logic," said Dey Sarkar during an interaction.

"Even the Indian Olympic Association refused to allow us to travel to Jakarta not knowing what bridge is all about.

"It was only three days before the Games started that we got the permission. And we did not even receive the official blazer," Dey Sarkar said.

This success will see a revival of many of the schools of bridge that had become defunct by now. "At least in Kolkata we will restart the Calcutta Bridge Club and the programme to introduce the youngsters to the game," said the National team coach Debashish Roy while summing the success of his side.

AM

## IN BRIEF



Neolithic remains found in Nile Delta

CAIRO

Archaeologists in Egypt say they have found one of the oldest-known villages in the Nile Delta, dating back to the Neolithic era. They discovered several storage silos containing large quantities of animal and plant remains, as well as pottery and stone tools. The find indicates that humans inhabited the Tell el-Samara area, as early as the fifth millennium B.C., far predating the pyramid. REUTERS



Sri Lanka probes deaths of wild elephants

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan authorities on Monday began investigating the deaths of wild elephants in the east of the island after pulling seven carcasses out of a marsh. Wildlife Minister Palitha Thewarapperuma said six out of the seven animals found in the swamp were below the age of 12. AFP

NASA seeks ideas to turn CO<sub>2</sub> into useful products

WASHINGTON

NASA has launched a public competition seeking novel solutions to turn carbon dioxide into useful compounds that may help future astronauts exploring Mars. CO<sub>2</sub> is one resource readily abundant within the martian atmosphere. PTI

# Drug-resistant superbug spreading in hospitals: study

Three variants of the bug were found in samples from 10 countries

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

A superbug resistant to all known antibiotics that can cause "severe" infections or even death is spreading undetected through hospital wards across the world, scientists in Australia warned on Monday.

Researchers at the University of Melbourne discovered three variants of the multi-drug-resistant bug in samples from 10 countries, including strains in Europe that cannot be reliably tamed by any drug currently on the market.

"We started with samples in Australia but did a global snapshot and found that it's in many countries and many institutions around the world," Ben Howden, director of the university's Micro-

The bacteria *Staphylococcus epidermidis* is related to the MRSA superbug. ■ GETTY IMAGES

**'Drug combinations may effectively kill bacteria'**

LOS ANGELES

Scientists at the University of California say they have discovered thousands of four-and-five-drug combinations of antibiotics that are more effective at killing harmful bacteria. It could be a major step as pathogens and common infections are increasingly becoming resistant to antibiotics, they say. PTI

biological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory said. "It seems to have spread."

The bacteria, known as *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, is related to the better-known and more deadly MRSA superbug.

It's found naturally on hu-

man skin and most commonly infects the elderly or patients who have had prosthetic materials implanted, such as catheters and joint replacements.

"It can be deadly, but it's usually in patients who already are very sick in hospital... it can be quite hard to

eradicate and the infections can be severe," Mr. Howden said.

His team looked at hundreds of *S. epidermidis* specimens from 78 hospitals worldwide. They found that some strains of the bug made a small change in its DNA that led to resistance to two of the most common antibiotics.

Mr. Howden said his study, published in the journal *Nature Microbiology*, showed the need for better understanding of how infections spread.

Another Australian study, published last month, suggested some hospital superbugs are growing increasingly tolerant to alcohol-based disinfectants found in hand-washes and sanitizers used on hospital wards.

## Over the hump



Desert ships: Participants during a camel race at the 29th edition of the Maralal International Camel Derby at Maralal, northern Kenya. ■ AFP

## + Healthcare for Swedes comes at a cost – time

Nation faces shortage of nurses, doctors



Sweden has the fifth-highest life expectancy in Europe and cancer survival rates are also high. ■ GETTY IMAGES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE STOCKHOLM

Asia Nader didn't know whether to worry more about being diagnosed with a hole in her heart at the age of 21, or having to wait a year for Swedish doctors to fix it.

"I completely fell apart when I found out," she said, remembering the long agonising months until she finally had her operation in June this year, one month before her 23rd birthday.

Sweden has the fifth-highest life expectancy in Europe and cancer survival rates are among the continent's highest, according to 2017 OECD figures.

But Swedes are frustrated over their universal healthcare, one of the main pillars of their cherished welfare state, with long waiting queues due to a shortage of nurses and available doctors in some areas.

Strain on welfare system

"Swedes have little confidence that politicians will solve this," said Lisa Pellin, chief analyst at progressive think tank Arena Ide. "There is a risk their faith in the welfare state will be eroded," she said.

Swedes, who on average pay more than half of their income in tax, see access to healthcare as the most important issue in the September 9 general election, polls suggest.

## 48 years later, Orson Welles' last film makes its debut

*The Other Side of the Wind* was shown at Telluride film festival, along with two documentaries about the making of the film

BROOKS BARNES TELLURIDE

Orson Welles was on the line. "What are you doing Thursday?" he asked.

It was 1970, and the *Citizen Kane* director had called Peter Bogdanovich to ask him to appear in his latest film, *The Other Side of the Wind*. Yes, he knew that Mr. Bogdanovich was stretched thin. Just drop by the set on Thursday, Welles insisted. The whole movie was only going to take a few weeks to shoot – tops.

Forty-eight years later, *The Other Side of the Wind* has finally arrived. It was shown for the first time in North America on Saturday at the Telluride Film Festival, where two new documentaries about the Herculean efforts to finish the film were also screened. "It's sad because Orson's not here to see it," Mr. Bogdanovich, 79, said

Finish line: European producer Filip Jan Rymsza loading prints of *The Other Side of the Wind* on trucks in Paris. ■ NYT

from the stage of the Palm Theatre here. "Or maybe he is."

Cinema buffs had almost given up on *The Other Side of the Wind*, which Welles left unfinished upon his death in 1985. It is known as one of the most famous movies never released, held up by warring rights holders

71, made his name by making the impossible possible – shutting down the Las Vegas Strip to shoot *Jason Bourne*, staying calm the time Steven Spielberg asked him to find 10,000 additional snakes for a scene in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, figuring out how Clint Eastwood could crash a jetliner for *Sully*. If he couldn't pull the film over the finish line, who could?

Once the film's producers finally secured firm funding – Netflix stepped up last year – they had to sort through more than 100 hours of footage (long stored in a Paris warehouse) to craft a film that Welles conceptualised as a type of collage, with some parts in colour and others in black and white, and scenes shot in various formats (35 mm, 16 mm, Super 8.)

"No one really knew if we had enough material to put

together a movie that actually made any sense," Marshall said Saturday.

The masses will soon get to decide for themselves.

*The Other Side of the Wind*

will arrive on Netflix and in a handful of theatres on November 2. So far, critics at Telluride and the Venice Film Festival, where the film had its premiere on Friday, have responded with unanimously positive reviews. The early reaction from festivalgoers has been mixed, with some befuddled and bored and others enraptured – about typical for Welles, who specialised in polarising cinema.

*The Other Side of the Wind*

reconstructs a debauched party (using footage supposedly shot by guests)

held at the home of Jake Han-

naford, a nonconformist film

director, just before he dies.

Scenes from Mr. Hannaford's

unfinished comeback film – screened at the party – are interspersed.

John Huston, who died in 1987, plays Hannaford as a

misogynistic, safari-suit-wearing alcoholic. Mr. Bogdanovich stars as Brooks Otterlake, a young director coming into wealth and prominence. Oja Kodar, who co-wrote the screenplay with Welles, acts in the bizarre film-within-the-film.

The result is a politically

incorrect fever dream that

involves dwarf sidekicks,

Kodar in "redface" as a Native American woman, at least one orgy, a drive-in theater,

'70s-era views of women

(disposable) and inclusion

(nonexistent), the mutilation

of a doll, a car crash, mannequins, an ice cube, lanterns,

rifles and a giant phallus

built with chicken wire and

perched on a sand dune,

among other imagery. NY TIMES

## UAE postpones Da Vinci unveiling at Louvre Abu Dhabi

*Salvator Mundi* is one of the fewer than 20 paintings by the artist

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DUBAI

The UAE said on Monday it had postponed the unveiling of the Louvre Abu Dhabi's most prized acquisition – a painting attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, bought for a record \$450 million.

The painting, which was bought last year, had been due to be unveiled on September 18.

But Abu Dhabi's culture and tourism department on Monday announced "the postponement of the unveiling of Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi* in a tweet."

"More details will be announced soon," it said.

The *Salvator Mundi*, a

A file photo of *Salvator Mundi*, a portrait of Jesus Christ painted in 1500, on display at Christie's in London. ■ AP

portrait of Jesus Christ painted in 1500, was the only one of the fewer than 20 paintings believed to be the work of the famed Renaissance Old Master still in private

hands when it went under the hammer, and sold, at Christie's in November. The painting was declared authentic six years ago, after long being dismissed as a co-

py by one of Da Vinci's students.

The Louvre Abu Dhabi has kept tight-lipped over the identity of the painting's buyer, saying only that the emirate's Department of Culture and Tourism had "acquired" it.

Last December, the *New York Times* identified the buyer as an obscure member of the Saudi royal family, Prince Badr bin Abdullah.

The *Wall Street Journal* later reported Bin Abdullah was acting on behalf of Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman.

He has never confirmed or denied the report.

## France bans use of phones in schools

President Macron fulfils campaign pledge



Keeping tabs: President Emmanuel Macron, left, sitting next to a student in a classroom in Laval, France. ■ AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Texting under the table should be a thing of the past after French children returned to class on Monday following a nationwide ban on mobile phones in schools.

The new rule, a campaign pledge of President Emmanuel Macron, was brought in under a law passed in July, which also banishes tablets and smart watches from primary and junior schools.

High schools, which teach students aged 15 to 18, can introduce partial or total bans on electronic devices as they reopen after the summer break, though this will not be obligatory.

But critics dismissed the measure as a public relations exercise, and predicted it will be difficult to apply.

The government has left schools to decide how to implement the new rules, recommending that they store students' phones in lockers during the day – but some schools don't have them.

Research shows that in French schools that have already banned phones, many pupils admit to breaking the rules.

Schools all over the world have struggled to adapt to the rise of pocket-sized devices.

together a movie that actually made any sense," Marshall said Saturday.

The masses will soon get to decide for themselves.

*The Other Side of the Wind*

will arrive on Netflix and in a

handful of theatres on November 2. So far, critics at Telluride and the Venice Film Festival, where the film had its premiere on Friday, have responded with unanimously positive reviews.

The early reaction from festivalgoers has been mixed, with some befuddled and bored and others enraptured – about typical for Welles, who specialised in polarising cinema.

*The Other Side of the Wind*

reconstructs a debauched party (using footage supposedly shot by guests)

held at the home of Jake Han-

naford, a nonconformist film

director, just before he dies.

Scenes from Mr. Hannaford's

unfinished comeback film – screened at the party – are interspersed.

John Huston, who died in 1987, plays Hannaford as a

misogynistic, safari-suit-wearing alcoholic. Mr. Bogdanovich stars as Brooks Otterlake, a young director coming into wealth and prominence. Oja Kodar, who co-wrote the screenplay with Welles, acts in the bizarre film-within-the-film.

The result is a politically

incorrect fever dream that

involves dwarf sidekicks,

Kodar in "redface" as a Native American woman, at least one orgy, a drive-in theater,

'70s-era views of women

(disposable) and inclusion

(nonexistent), the mutilation

THE HINDU

# DELHI METRO

TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

FOLLOW US:  
  
[thehindu.com](http://thehindu.com)  
[facebook.com/thehindu](https://facebook.com/thehindu)  
[twitter.com/the\\_hindu](https://twitter.com/the_hindu)



## Traffic violators

Commercial vehicle drivers found to be repeat offenders will now have their driving licence cancelled [Page 3](#)



## Two kill BSP leader

Two unidentified men kill a BSP panchayat member from Uttar Pradesh in Batla House [Page 3](#)



## In love with shades of grey

The versatile actor talks about his craft and his long struggle in the Hindi film industry [Page 5](#)



## The future of retail?

The Watasale store in Kochi is an experiment in cashier-less shopping [Page 6](#)

### IN BRIEF



#### Pollution: will the city see a clean winter?

NEW DELHI  
The Capital has registered 118 days of 'good', 'satisfactory' or 'moderate' air quality between January 1 and August 26 this year – its best performance in three years, reveals an analysis by the Central Pollution Control Board.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 3](#)

#### Obesity epidemic in rural Delhi: docs sound alarm

NEW DELHI  
Previously safe from the rising trend of obesity, rural India is now showing an alarming increase in the number of cases of this chronic disease. A dipstick study of rural Delhi, conducted by Safdarjung Hospital to find out the prevalence of obesity in rural women in the Capital, found that 75.3% of the 343 participants were obese.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 4](#)

#### 8 held for selling babies to childless couples

NEW DELHI  
Eight people have been arrested for allegedly selling newborn babies to childless couples, police sources said on Monday. The arrests were made in August. They said the kingpin of the racket, suspected to be a woman, is yet to be arrested. [PTI](#)

## HC rejects Centre's plea against refixation of constables' salaries

Court ruling likely to benefit police personnel recruited before 2006



A constable had challenged a policy of the Delhi Police which fixed the minimum entry pay for direct-recruit constables joining the force in or after 2006. [FILE PHOTO](#)

**SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH**  
NEW DELHI  
In a major boost to constables of the Delhi Police, recruited before 2006, the Delhi High Court has dismissed the Centre's petition challenging a decision of a tribunal here on the strength of which the police personnel are seeking refixation of their salaries.

On July 18, 2016, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) had directed the Delhi Police to fix the salary of Constable Babu Lal Mitharwal on par with those recruited after 2006.

Mr. Mitharwal, who was recruited before 2006, had challenged a policy of the Delhi Police which fixed the minimum entry pay for direct-recruit constables joining the force in or after 2006, up to ₹1,900 more than the pay fixed for those recruited between 2000-06.

**Approached individually**  
While the Delhi Police, in compliance with the tribunal's order, in September 2016, revised the salary of Mr. Mitharwal, it did not do so for the other constables who had joined the agency before 2006.

This forced the affected

constables to individually approach the court for similar relief granted to Mr. Mitharwal.

"The denial of the benefit of minimum pay scale that had been granted to Constable Babu Lal Mitharwal would be violative of the fundamental right to equality [under Article 14 of the Constitution] of applicants who are similarly placed, in so far as they were enlisted as constables before 2006," a petition by one of the constables seeking similar relief said.

Advocate Gyanant Kumar Singh, who had represented Mr. Mitharwal, said that

It had argued that the employees who were already in service prior to January 1, 2006, and those who joined after as Direct Recruits formed two different classes with two different rules for fixation of pay.

However, a High Court Bench of Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Rekha Palli expressed displeasure over the Centre not mentioning in its petition that the tribunal's order has already been implemented in Mr. Mitharwal's case.

On the Bench query to know the reason for challenging an order which had already been implemented, the Centre's counsel said many other police personnel were seeking refixation of salary in terms of the order.

This cannot be justification for challenging an order, the Bench remarked while dismissing the Centre's petition.

"We do not see any reason to entertain the present petition...particularly, when it is nowhere been stated therein that the benefit of the impugned judgment has already been granted by the petitioners to the respondent. The present petition is dismissed," the Bench said.

## Rift within bureaucracy widens; silent protests may return

Over 'lack of parity' in the deployment of bureaucrats

**JATIN ANAND**  
**DAMINI NATH**  
NEW DELHI

Silent protests could return to the Delhi Secretariat after gradually losing steam and being discontinued over the last three months. This time, however, the trigger for these would be the alleged infighting within the Capital's bureaucracy instead of a battle of will between it and members of the political executive.

Having become a routine exercise in solidarity following the alleged assault of Chief Secretary Anshu Kapoor at CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence in February, these were held across Delhi government offices on all working days till mid-May symbolically demanding a safe and dignified work environment.

**'Vested interests'**  
Sources belonging to the service said, officers of the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service (DANICS) could take the same road against what they allege is "lack of parity" in the deployment of bureaucrats belonging to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), DANICS and other cadres during invigilators' duties for recruitment exams being held by the Delhi Subordi-

**IAS officers are deliberately being allowed to skip duties as invigilators from recruitment exams being organised by the DSSSB so as not to spoil their Sunday off days**

**A DANICS OFFICIAL**

nate Services Selection Board (DSSSB).

The recruitment exams are being held every Sunday since the beginning of this year to fill up close to half of the total number of vacancies in the Capital's six-tier bureaucratic set-up. Top sources in the bureaucracy told *The Hindu* that the deployment of officers from various ranks as invigilators was a "non-issue" and differences were being stoked where none existed by "vested interests".

Sources in the DANICS complained they were "being stripped of their dignity" by being asked to perform duties beneath their "seniority, level of experience and long-standing commitment to government service" and were mulling silent protests to demand an "equal and dignified work environment".

"We have sought time from the Chief Secretary on Tuesday over the issue; IAS officers are deliberately being allowed to skip duties as invigilators from recruitment exams being organised by the DSSSB so as not to spoil their Sunday off days," a DANICS official complained requesting anonymity.

**'Merely on reserve duty'**  
IAS officers, the official claimed, had been "merely put on reserve duty" during a similar exam on Sunday and "did not even show up at the respective centres they were deployed at".

"DANICS officers are being made to do the same exercise, and being brought down to the same status which they started out at decades ago. These basic duties are not befitting of experienced officials like us who have given their lives to government service," said another DANICS officer.

"This is a non-issue. Whether it is IAS or DANICS, bureaucrats are deployed on such duties equally as well all kept in reserve equally. This is not an IAS-DANICS issue but vested interests trying to draw a wedge in the bureaucracy," a senior bureaucrat said.

## Online travel firm to pay for delay in refund

Consumer panel directs it to pay complainant ₹10,000 as compensation

**SHINJINI GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI

A District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum here directed MakeMyTrip to pay ₹10,000 as compensation to a complainant for delaying the refund of a cancelled flight ticket.

Holding the online travel company guilty of deficiency in services, the consumer panel said, "The record indicates that SpiceJet Airline had informed the complainant that full amount has been paid to the opposite party [MakeMyTrip], for his ticket refund of cancelled flight. But, there was a clear cut delay of about six months for which the opposite party, utilising the money of the complainant without any valid justification committed deficiency in service."

"MakeMyTrip, in fact, acted being the face of SpiceJet Airline, and no direct transaction between the complainant and SpiceJet Airline took place," the consumer



**It is admitted that the refunded amount was first sent to MakeMyTrip by the airlines, which was subsequently credited to the bank account of the complainant, therefore, the opposite party cannot wriggle out of the situation**

**DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL FORUM**

ed to the travel portal. However, the refund amount was not paid to him till September 2015.

"Both the opposite parties have been misleading the complainant by imparting incomplete and false information and payment details. It has been stated by the complainant that ultimately the amount was credited in his account in September 2015, after due delay and a lot of emotional and physical agony," read the complaint in the order.

Directing the travel portal to compensate the complainant, the panel said, "Though the complainant has been successful in retrieving his amount but he needs to be reasonably compensated for delayed refund."

+ Cop it sweet



Policemen on duty in Lutyens' Delhi as many parts of the Capital witnessed unrelenting rain on Monday. The Met Department has forecast more rain in the coming days. [R.V. MOORTHY \(SEE ALSO PAGE 3\)](#)

## Ramlila Maidan flooded as workers and farmers arrive for protest rally

Delhi's late monsoon rainfall leaves more than half of the ground – the rally site – uninhabitable; organisers scramble to find alternative accommodation

**PRISCILLA JEBARAJ**  
NEW DELHI

It is three days since midday meal worker Shaila Angadi left her home in Karnataka's Bagalkot district to travel to the Capital to participate in Wednesday's Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally, being organised by unions affiliated to the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Arriving at the New Delhi railway station early on Monday morning, she and a group of 58 women workers were greeted by a deluge of rainfall, which has flooded the tents they were due to stay in at Ramlila Maidan.

"It is raining at home [Bagalkot] also, but not so badly," she says, sitting on a bright yellow waterproof plastic sheet that organisers have spread over wooden planks in a bid to prevent the wet sand of the Maidan from seeping into the tent. "Our problems are much bigger than this rain; that is

why we have come," says Balsingh Andil, an Adivasi farmer from Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district.

#### More rain forecast

Delhi's late monsoon rainfall has flooded more than half of Ramlila Maidan, forcing the farmers and workers arriving for the rally to abandon 60% of their tent space. Most of the ground is a sea of mud, with large puddles of dirty water making it uninhabitable. The North Delhi Municipal Corporation has spread sand on parts of the Maidan in a bid to dry it out, but the weather forecast – predicting "light to moderate" rainfall over the next two days – is not entirely encouraging.

Organisers are scrambling to find alternative accommodation in train stations and gurdwaras. "We originally expected to house 80,000 people here

in Ramlila," says Manoj Kumar Sirswal, an All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) coordinator working at the camp. "Now we will have to reduce it to 50,000 and squeeze them into the remaining space."

Scaffolding for more tents have been installed even in the waterlogged areas, in the hope that dryer weather will allow them to be used. "We have asked those who came in from Maharashtra this morning to stay at the station for now," said AIKS general secretary Hannan Mollah.

**Participants for the Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally arrive at the temporary camp in Ramlila Maidan, which is the venue for the rally to be held on Wednesday; water puddles can be seen at the protest site, in the Capital on Monday.** [R.V. MOORTHY](#)

Farmers Long March to Mumbai [in March], and they may also have to stay at the station for now," said AIKS general secretary Hannan Mollah.

**Big challenge**  
Overall, organisers now expect about two lakh people to arrive for the rally. Most of those coming early from Punjab and Haryana will be housed at three large gurdwaras, at Rakab Ganj Sahib, Sis Ganj Sahib and Bangla Sahib. Others from Delhi's neighbouring States will only arrive in the early hours of Wednesday, removing the need for accommodation.

The big challenge will come on Thursday, when 30,000 people from Maharashtra, and an equal number from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are expected to arrive. Even flood-hit Kerala is expected to send about 6,000 participants, says Mr. Sirswal.

This is Angadi's first protest in Delhi, although she has been part of the Centre of Trade Union's affiliate bodies ever since she began work in the midday meal scheme nine years ago. "Twelve years ago, midday meal workers got only ₹300 per month as salary. Today, we get ₹2,700, but only ₹750 comes from the Centre. The remainder is paid by the State," she says. "We are demanding that we all get ₹18,000 as minimum wage."

**Govt's failure**  
Andil has to recollect when he first participated in a protest rally in the Capital. "It was in 1985," he says finally. He is bitter about the government's failure to keep its promises regarding minimum support prices and procurement, claiming that middlemen and brokers snatch the bulk of whatever the government pays. Apart from livelihood issues, he is protesting the authoritarianism of the rulers. "In the name of Naxalism, the forces have made it unsafe for Adivasi people to live normal lives," he says. "If anyone raises a voice against the government, they say he is a Naxalite."

He has not seen much positive change in the three decades he has been participating in such rallies, but that does not stop him from coming to the Capital through rain and flood. "Without struggle, there is no future at all," he says.

## IN BRIEF



## Kejriwal comes out in support of Hardik Patel

NEW DELHI  
Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Monday came out in support of Gujarat Patidar leader Hardik Patel, whose hungerstrike in demand of a loan waiver for farmers, entered its tenth day on Monday. STAFF REPORTER

## 'IGI could beat Heathrow Airport in traffic volume'

NEW DELHI  
The IGI Airport here could overtake London's Heathrow Airport in traffic volume by 2020 financial year, a Sydney-based aviation research body has said. In its latest report, the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation, India said IGI airport, which handled 65.7 million passengers in the 2017-18 fiscal, is likely to cross 80 million passenger by 2019-20. That would see IGI approach or even overtake London Heathrow in traffic volumes, the report said. PTI

## Tougher action against traffic violators

Commercial vehicle drivers found to be repeat offenders will have their driving licence, badge cancelled

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI

The Transport Department has decided to not only up the ante against drivers of commercial vehicles, such as taxis and goods carriers, with a documented history of breaking traffic laws, but keep them off the streets for good.

If steeper fines issued for successive instances of being on the wrong side of traffic rules do not do the trick, the department's revised policy against drivers of commercial vehicles involved in more than one traffic offence entails the cancellation of prerequisites such as their drivers' licences, Passenger Service Vehicle badges and the registration certificates of their vehicles.

The 'Revised Police for Taking Action Against Transport Vehicles Involved in Repeated Offences' will come into effect from early next month. ■ FILE PHOTO



The 'Revised Police for Taking Action Against Transport Vehicles Involved in Repeated Offences' will come into effect from early next month. ■ FILE PHOTO

## badge.

Similar action, the policy states, will also be taken against drivers of commercial vehicles in case of more than two consecutive violations of different traffic rules in a calendar year.

## E-challan

"The policy will come in force from early next month and work in tandem with our e-challan initiative," a government source said. "We are currently prosecuting private buses registered both in Delhi and other States in a similar fashion and writing

to other State governments to do the same," said another government source.

The Department is in the process of procuring 60 handheld e-challan tabs, one for each of its Enforcement Wing teams and expects to commission them by the beginning of October.

## Steeper fines

Supposedly superior to similar ones used by the Delhi Traffic Police currently and linked to a central database of drivers and their challan history, these devices, government sources said, are

especially intended to add the monetary sting of higher fines for compoundable offences that repeat offenders are liable to pay.

For instance, while the first instance of red light jumping entails a fine of ₹90, the second time the same driver commits the same offence, which is compoundable, he or she may pay ₹2070 as per the relevant provisions of the Motor Vehi-

cles Act.

Fines for offences such as triple riding, driving without a helmet, not displaying a number plate, driving with a defective number plate and violation of stop line, which entail a fine of ₹90 for a first-timer are compounded to ₹270 for repeat offenders.

If higher fines for every subsequent offence do not have the required deterrent effect, a government official said, the new policy is expected to do the needful.

"In case of all transport vehicles involved in two fatal accidents... the driving licence and badge of the driver involved in the accidents

shall be cancelled," the policy states.

The policy also states that the Delhi Traffic Police will send cases to the Department where the same offence is committed by a particular driver of a vehicle for three times in a calendar year for the cancellation of driving licence and badge of the driver.

If the offence, the policy states, is committed by the another driver of a particular vehicle for three times in a calendar year,

"the driver's licence and badge shall be cancelled, the permit and the registration of the vehicle shall also be cancelled in the event of the above mentioned four offences in a calendar year".

In case of offences committed by the driver such as drunken driving, the policy adds, offences committed more than once will lead to the cancellation of his licence and badge. The permit and the registration of the vehicle shall also be cancelled in the event of two offences in a calendar year.

## Home Dept: consider 'microdot' technology

To curb vehicle thefts in the Capital

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government's Home Department has asked the Delhi Police and the Transport Department to look into the possibility of using microdot technology in order to curb vehicle thefts. The technology involves spraying of thousands of nano dots carrying registration information on vehicles.

ment stated that there has not been any decision yet, but the Centre is also working on a policy regarding microdot technology.

## Nano dots

Sources said about 10,000 nano dots are sprayed on four-wheelers, 3,000 on two-wheelers and 5,000 on commercial vehicles.

These nano-size metal particles carry information like the registration number and chassis number of the vehicle. The dots are sprayed at many different spots on the vehicle, so that even if the vehicle is stolen and sold for parts, it can be traced.

Thousands of vehicle thefts, which are reported in the Capital each year, have led authorities to consider measures to curb those.

A Delhi Police report has stated that in 2017, 39,080 vehicles were stolen till December 15.

## CM blames BJP, says economy was never in such a mess

Refers to increasing fuel prices and falling value of rupee

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Referring to the increasing fuel prices and falling value of rupee, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Monday blamed the BJP government for the economy being a "mess".

"Petrol/Diesel prices touching an all time high. Rupee falling to a historic low. BJP's Central govt, in its last months, either does not know what to do or is simply not bothered about the hardships it is heaping on Aam Aadmi. Economy was never in such a mess! [sic]," Mr. Kejriwal wrote in a tweet.

Following Mr. Kejriwal's tweet, the AAP issued a statement saying that the



Arvind Kejriwal ■

Finance Ministry is caught in a power struggle... The confusion this has created is responsible for its lacklustre performance in the last few months

STATEMENT ISSUED BY AAP

party was of the view that the BJP government at the Centre, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had failed to address the problem of rising fuel prices and falling currency.

**'Carelessness'**  
"The Central government has shown remarkable carelessness when it comes to the economy. The country's Finance Ministry is

caught in a power struggle between two high-rank Ministers, and the confusion this has created in the Ministry is responsible for its lacklustre performance in the last few months," the statement read.

The party said it had urged the Centre to address these issues, adding that the BJP would lose in 2019 if the situation continued to worsen.

**Dip in temperature**  
The maximum temperature settled at 29.5 degrees Celsius, five degrees below average and the minimum settled at 25.6 degree Celsius.

The Delhi Traffic Police said that streets were waterlogged in areas near Ganesh Chowk Mother Dairy towards Laxmi Nagar metro station, Punjabi Bagh, Moti Nagar flyover, DM office Nala Road in Geeta Colony, Yusuf Sarai Market near IIT and Sri

Aurobindo Marg.

Waterlogging was also reported in areas such as Kali Kunj, Nirman Vihar, Indramohan Bhardwaj Marg, Vikas Marg and Ring Road, the Traffic department said.

The maximum and minimum temperatures on Tuesday are likely to be 30 de-

grees and 25 degrees Celsius respectively. The forecast reads generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain or thundershowers.

## Tobacco-free zones: schools to file report on steps taken

Will have to mention sensitisation, training programmes held



are any tobacco vendor within 100 metres of the school premises, etc.

Schools have also been told to popularise the 'IFOR' campaign that encourages students to adopt a tobacco user and assist him or her to quit.

Schools will also have to fill details of activities conducted on 'Dry Day For Tobacco' on the last day of the month apart from number and type of awareness activi-

On

HC stays 'illegal' construction of KV Sangathan on private land

On plea by owner of the vacant plot in Shahdara; court lists matter for further hearing on October 25

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has stayed an alleged illegal construction of a Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on a private vacant land in Shahdara on the plea by the owner of the land.

Justice Anu Malhotra directed the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan from raising any structural construction on the disputed piece of land

till the next date of hearing on October 25.

## Last week's order

"The respondents are restrained from raising any structural construction on the land property bearing no. 634-407/402/408 of village Uldhampur, Shahdara, Delhi as also Khasra bearing no. 222/200/2/38 of revenue estate Chiraga Sumali," read the High Court's or-

der issued last week.

## Trial court order

The petition, filed by one Gulam Qutubuddin Sabri, challenged a trial court order dismissing his application to restrain Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan from making any construction activity in the vacant plot.

The trial court had on July 31, 2018 dismissed his plea on sole ground that on the

date of filing the suit the petitioner was not in the possession of the property.

Mr. Sabri's plea before the High Court filed through advocate C.S. Rathour said that the trial court order was passed without fair and proper application of judicial mind.

Mr. Rathour argued in the plea that his client and other co-sharers were already held to be recorded owners-in-

possession of the vacant land as per the Revenue Records.

The petition also sought direction for the appointment of Local Commissioner preferably the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Shahdara), with a direction to visit the suit land and find out whether the ongoing construction activities are being done on the suit land shown in the site plan.

## HC directs AIIMS to treat two kids for free

Suffering from Gaucher's disease, they belong to Below Poverty Line families

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the government to provide free medical treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to two children suffering from Gaucher's disease.

The children, Ubed and Arshi, belong to below poverty line families.

Noting that since the government is yet to formulate the guidelines and policy for acceptance or rejection of therapy for such patients,

Justice Manmohan directed the AIIMS to provide medical treatment to Ubed and Arshi as an interim arrangement.

The judge also said that one of the patients, whose case was directed to be processed by the court in February earlier this year, has unfortunately expired during the pendency of the present proceedings.

**₹100-crore fund**  
The government earlier said that the National Health Mis-

sion had been asked to earmark ₹100 crore towards Central government assistance to the States as central share of 60% of the approved cost for treatment of rare genetic diseases.

It also said that an expert Central Technical-cum-Administrative Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of B.D. Athani, Special Director General (DGH) to consider requests for treatment and to determine which cases or diseases could be funded and to what extent, to review treatment.

## NGT forms panel on potable groundwater

Monitoring committee to finalise action plan to enhance availability

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a monitoring committee to finalise an action plan to enhance availability of potable groundwater

adopting suitable measures, check contamination and take a final call on the plans for proper utilisation of treated effluents".

"There is also an issue of

encroachment of Delhi floodplains that leads to reducing groundwater recharge. Beyond suggesting sealing of borewells or handpumps, where water is contaminated, no suggestion has come forward for treating the contamination," the Bench observed, while constituting the committee.

The monitoring committee will be headed by former Delhi High Court Judge S.P. Garg. It will also have representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board, Central Ground Water Authority and jurisdictional SDM, the Bench said.

The committee has been asked to "take stock of all actions taken so far" and prepare a time-bound action plan to deal with the matter.

"The committee may prepare an action plan which shall have targets of ensuring compliance. The district magistrates of the concerned districts will be co-ordinators of their respective districts" the green panel also said.



## IN BRIEF



## Man held with two bullets at IGI airport

NEW DELHI  
A Ranchi-bound passenger was apprehended Monday by the CISF at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying two live bullet rounds, an official said. "Two live bullet rounds of 0.32 mm calibre were recovered from the passenger," the official added. PTI

## Two men held for ATM fraud in Sangam Vihar

NEW DELHI  
Two persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in ATM fraud cases in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar, the police said on Monday. Seven ATM cards and ₹10,000 in cash were recovered from their possession. PTI

## DELHI TODAY

Talk: Discussion on "Building a common future in Central Asia: The way forward for India-Uzbekistan relations". Keynote address by H.E. Mr. Farhad Aziev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan. Chair: Ambassador Ashok Sajwan, former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia, and former Rooms I, II & III, Kamaladevi Complex, IIC, 5:30 p.m.

Talk: "Book discussion on 'Buddhism: The Path of Compassion' on the Buddhist Heritage of the World by Benoy K Behl, author and photographer. Chair: Ambassador Pavan K Varma, at Auditorium, IGCA, 1, Central Vista Mess, Janpath, 5:30 p.m.

Talk: "Creative Industries - Smart Power - The world ahead!" by Sanjoy Roy, Managing Director, Teamwork Arts. Chair: Sunil Tandon, Director, IHC at Gulmohar Hall, IHC, 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Tombs of Delhi" - Urban Sketchers Delhi presents location sketches and paintings of tombs of Delhi showing the historical evolution of architecture at Delhi's Delhi Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Exhibition: Photo show on "Mexico in the World Heritage" - a collection of pictures portraying the sites and practices of Mexico listed as World Heritage by UNESCO at Twin Art Gallery 2, IGCA, 1, CV Mess, Janpath, 10:30 a.m.- 7:30 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at citytodaydelhi@thehindu.co.in)

## BSP leader shot dead, manhunt on

Family suspects involvement of men with whom he had a fight over money

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old BSP leader was shot dead by two unidentified men in south-east Delhi's Batla House on Monday evening.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chinmoy Biswas said Dilshad Khan, a BSP panchayat member from Uttar Pradesh, was shot four times.

"Local enquiry revealed that two helmet-borne persons on foot had fired at the victim and fled the spot," Mr. Biswas said.

The victim, a builder, was rushed to Holy Family Hospital where he was declared



Dilshad Khan was shot four times by two unidentified men on Monday.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ADIL  
Victim's nephew

brought dead.

"A case under Section 302 [punishment for murder] of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and investigation has been taken up," the officer said.

The victim's nephew Adil said that Dilshad had received a call in the evening from someone who instructed him to come to a particular place. He had gone two streets ahead when he was shot dead.

The victim's nephew Adil

**Dilshad had received a call in the evening [Monday] from someone who instructed him to come to a particular place. He had gone two streets ahead when he was shot dead**

The family suspects the involvement of some men with whom the victim had a fight with a few weeks ago.

## Victim was in jail

"There was a fight over a monetary issue after which a case was registered and he had gone to jail. He only returned 10 days ago. We suspect their involvement in the murder," the nephew said.

The police said Dilshad is survived by his wife, an eight-year-old daughter, two sons - aged seven years and seven months.

They added that the victim was involved in real estate business in Okhla.

## Eyecare unit to pay ₹15 lakh compensation

Complainant was blinded in her left eye'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

done in the charitable institution or in the regular clinic" the consumer panel said.

It further said: "Refuting allegations levelled by the opposite parties, the complainant submitted that due to gross negligence..., the MCI had initiated an inquiry. Complainant submitted that the plea in relation to submitting 'consent form' was false and fabricated." Complainant Kavita Khanna had alleged that the cataract surgery was unsuccessful due to negligence.

"Contention of the complainant is that before the surgery, mandatory tests were not done. Requisite facilities were not available in the nursing home. After the surgery, there was bleeding in the operated eye. Another operation was conducted by the same doctor but the condition of the patient deteriorated," the complaint stated.

## Court reduces jail term of man in drunk driving case

Stated that the convict is remorseful for his conduct

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A court here has reduced one-month imprisonment to a man till rising of court sentence in a drunk driving case, stating that he is remorseful for his conduct.

## Fine imposed

A Metropolitan Magistrate court had sentenced him to one month's imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹2,100 on him after he pleaded guilty to his offence.

## Alcohol content

The breath analyser report stated that the alcohol content in his blood was 200 mg per 100 ml. In his appeal in the court, Additional Sessions Judge Jagdish Kumar, said that the accused had challenged the quantum of sentence, submitting that it was harsh as he was a first time offender. He is stated to be the sole earning member of

**The driving of the vehicle on public road after consuming alcohol is dangerous to the safety of other people which should be considered by the courts. But the appellant is first time offender. He is stated to be the sole earning member of his family.**

JAGDISH KUMAR  
Additional Sessions Judge

his family. He has already deposited the fine. The appellant is remorseful for his conduct. It is well settled that it is not the severity of the punishment but it is surely not to repeat the offence which serves as a greater deterrent."

"In view of the aforesaid discussion, facts of the case and personal circumstances of the convict, it is considered that a sentence till rising of court would be appropriate in the case," the judge said.

## Simple imprisonment

The Judge further said: "The sentence of simple imprisonment for a period of one month, imposed by the trial court, is reduced to till rising of court. However, the sentence of fine imposed upon the appellant shall stand. The appeal is partly allowed in the aforesaid terms."

## Miscreants loot ₹5 lakh from money exchange shop in CP

Other shop owners raised questions on security in the area

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

**The burglars broke the lockers and took away ₹5 lakh cash including ₹2 lakh foreign currency. They also took away other documents kept in the shop**

SUNIL GUPTA  
Shop owner

"The burglars broke the lockers and took away ₹5 lakh cash including ₹2 lakh foreign currency. They also took away other documents kept in the shop

"We are scanning CCTV footage of the area to get clues in the case. A team has been formed to investigate the matter," said an officer.

Based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR into the matter.

"We are scanning CCTV

## Godman arrested for sexual assault on minor

'Had touched her inappropriately'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

pur but could not locate her.

## Complainant traced

"Efforts were made to find her. On August 30, she was finally found," the officer said, adding that the woman had shifted to Faridabad. The woman allegedly assaulted a minor in south Delhi's Fa-tehpur Beri, the police said on Monday.

The incident happened on August 17 inside the accused's ashram, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Vijay Kumar said the complainant alleged that the incident happened when she had gone to the accused's ashram in Kholi temple in Bhati Mines with her minor niece.

"Bhagat had asked her to bring pebbles. When she returned, she saw that the accused was touching her niece inappropriately," Mr. Kumar said.

During investigation, the police tried to reach the complainant on the given address at Kotla Mubarakpur. The same day, statement of the victim and complainant were recorded before the magistrate. The accused was then arrested from his residence in Bhati Khurd and sent to judicial custody," Mr. Kumar said.

## Air pollution: Capital fares well in first half, dubious on clean winter

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Capital has registered 118 days of 'good', 'satisfactory' or 'moderate' air quality between January 1 and August 26 this year - its best performance in three years, according to an analysis by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). In the same period, there were 117 such days in 2017; and only 74 in 2016.

However, this does not imply that Delhi is set for a clean winter.

Delhi has registered seven days of 'severe' air quality (when the Air Quality Index exceeds 400) between January 1 and August 26 this year. There were no 'severe' days in 2017 and only six 'severe' days in 2016, in the same period. The CPCB also compared pollution data and concentration of particulate matter (PM), as measured in February this year, from several areas in Delhi to determine which places need more attention.

Lodhi Road area was determined to be one of the least polluted areas in the city requiring 'focussed efforts' on dust control'.

Dwarka, Mundka and Anand Vihar have been categorised as 'polluted' areas that require 'extensive effort' to control sources of coarse dust (PM2.5) such as road dust and construction waste. IGI, Noida, Aya Nagar, ITO and North Campus have been flagged as areas that require 'extensive efforts' to control pollution caused by combustion.

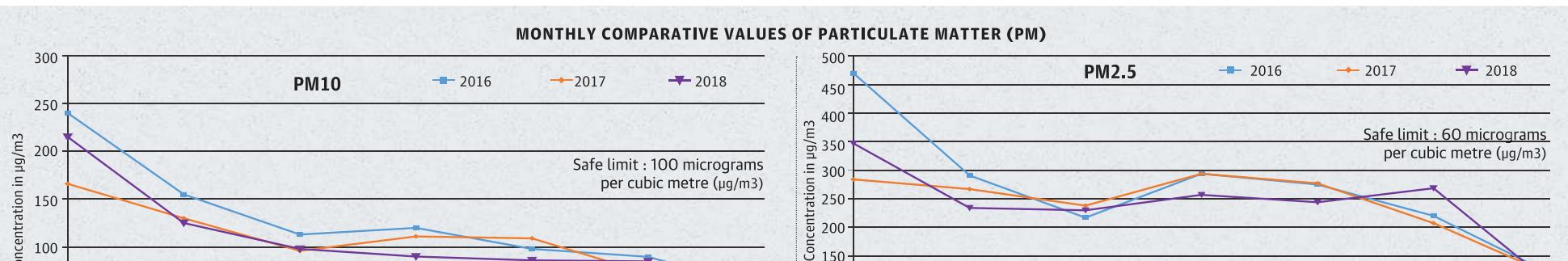
Jahangirpuri, Ashok Vihar, Bawana, Narela, R.K. Puram, and more have been categorised as 'critical' areas that require 'multi-dimensional intervention' to curb pollution levels.

The Centre claims it has planned several initiatives, which will be launched for the first time, to buffer the blow of possible bad air quality during winter this year.

The government has proposed installing 54 Wind Augmentation and Air Purifying Units (WAYU) at high-pollution areas in Delhi such as ITO, Wazirpur and Shadipur.

Tested in Mumbai, the WAYUs act like giant vacuum pumps that suck in polluted air, filter some of the pollutants and release the cleaned air. The CPCB will also be installing 'Pariyanta' filtration units atop 30 buses. These units work in a similar fashion to the WAYUs. To tackle pollution emanating from neighbouring States, particularly from stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, the Union Environment Ministry is planning to supply seeding machines to farmers.

Like last year, 40 teams of the Union Environment Ministry will be monitoring pollution emission sources across Delhi.



## COMPARATIVE AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) 2016 VIS-À-VIS 2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

2016  
2017

4 CITY

NODA/DELHI THE HINDU  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

# Obesity epidemic in rural Delhi: doctors sound alarm

Study finds 75.3% of women aged 30-84 are suffering from the chronic disease

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI

Previously safe from the rising trend of obesity, rural India is now showing an alarming increase in the number of cases of this chronic disease.

A dipstick study of rural Delhi, conducted by Safdarjung Hospital to find out the prevalence of obesity in rural women in the Capital, found that 75.3% of the 343 participants were obese.

**Weight gain**

The study noted that 75% of the participants reported weight gain after marriage, out of which 53.1% said they gained more than 10 kg; 74% cited pregnancy as the reason for the gain.

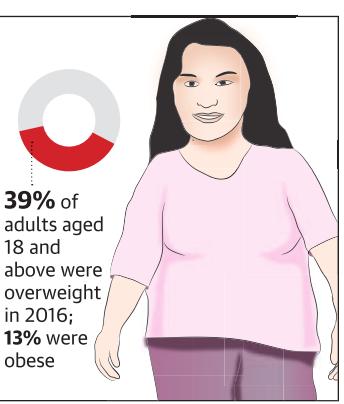
Out of the participants who ever became pregnant, 65.3% said they gained weight during pregnancy; 59.8% said there was no weight loss after lactation.

The study was conducted by Suruchi Mishra, a post-graduate student under her faculty supervisor Professor Anita Khokhar, Department of Community Medicine,

**Growing problem**

- Obesity has reached epidemic proportions globally with at least 2.8 million people dying each year as a result of being overweight or obese
  - Once associated with high-income countries, obesity is now also prevalent in low and middle-income countries
- 41 million**  
children under the age of five were overweight or obese in 2016
- Worldwide obesity has nearly tripled since 1975
- In 2016, more than 1.9 billion adults, 18 years and older, were overweight. Of these, over 650 million were obese

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



V.M.C and Safdarjung hospital.

Over 67% of Indians reside in rural areas where a gradual change in lifestyle has been observed. This is a cross-sectional study conducted among women in the age group of 30-84 years, the mean age was 46.3 years," said Prof. Khokhar.

The study found that there is rampant prevalence of obesity in rural women and is associated with multiple factors and health issues.

It was found that 70.9% of participants consumed all meals in equal quantity, 94.4% did not have a habit of

eating in-between meals, 89.9% did not have a habit of snacking while watching TV. Chowmein and samosa were most frequently consumed outside the home.

**Tobacco use**

It was also found that 18.6% of participants used tobacco; chewing tobacco and smoking bidi being the most common. Only 2% consumed alcohol.

"The diet of 42.9% of the study participants was vegetarian whereas 57.1% consumed mixed diet. Non-vegetarian diet was consumed 1-2 times in a week by 47%,

buffalo or full cream milk by 89.7%; 91.1% consumed sweets rarely/never; 94.3% consumed vegetables and fruits every day; 77.7% rarely or never consumed items made of refined flour and 96.9% consumed 2-3 teaspoon of sugar a day," noted the study.

The overweight/obese participants were counselled about proper diet, physical activity. Those who required specialist care for co-morbidities were referred either to VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital or to Primary Health Centre, Fatehpur Bari," said Prof. Anita Khokhar.

## Gurugram to get integrated control centre

Foundation stone laid by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has laid the foundation stone for an Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Gurugram under the Smart City initiative.

The ICCC will be the nodal point for all online data related to Smart City applications, including CCTV-based public safety and adaptive traffic management system, smart parking system, water supply management system, pollution monitoring, pro-

perty tax management system and asset management system.

The work for the project, estimated to cost ₹62.77 crore, has been awarded to IL&FS Technologies Ltd. It will be completed in 9-12 months in a phased manner.

**Nerve centre**

The ICCC will have the capability to aggregate data from various sensors and systems, and process it to provide an interface/dashboard for generating alerts and notifications in real time.

The centre is aimed at strengthening co-ordinated response to emergency/crisis situations through defined Standard Operating Procedures and step-by-step instructions.

The centre will give access to information on water management resources, waste management resources, and citizen services such as land records, property tax, billing etc. It will also have environmental data.

All assets of Gurugram are being mapped on 'One Map GIS' as part of the Smart City

initiative to facilitate the centre's integrated dashboards. A 'Citizen App' will also be launched for registering complaints suggestions and feedback after redressal.

**Fibre network**

In order to e-connect all areas of Gurugram to the ICCC, a city-wide fibre network has been planned that will function as the backbone for all Smart City initiatives. The fibre network will stretch over 600 km, covering 115 sectors in Gurugram and Manesar.

## Continental drift

Iranian woman completes 1.5-year sojourn, covering 64 countries on her bike

ARYAN D'ROZARIO  
NEW DELHI

Despite a successful career and a comfortable life in India for the last 15 years, Maral Yazarloo-Patrick felt something was missing.

Raised in Iran and educated in India, she was aware of stereotypes as far as women are concerned but wanted to prove that she was independent and capable of achieving something.

That something turned out to be her desire to see the world. The 36-year-old applied for a sabbatical at her real estate firm in Pune and left – sans an itinerary or any hotel bookings.

An Iranian flag in one hand and the Tricolour in the other, she hopped on her sports bike and traversed 64 countries across seven continents. Her fiancé Alex joined her halfway through the journey and the couple tied the knot in November 2017 at Machu Picchu in Peru.

**Hurdles on the way**

The 1.5-year-long sojourn across the globe ended on August 27, after she landed at the Delhi airport. Her bike, sent via cargo, landed in India nearly 48 hours before she did but was impounded by Customs. It was released on Tuesday, after Ms. Yazarloo spent many hours trying to get it back.

She recalled how she wanted to ride all the way from Iran to the Indian border but the Pakistani authorities objected and rejected her request since her bike was registered in India.

Ms. Yazarloo, who holds a PhD in marketing from the

I was stuck for a month in Argentina, waiting for a boat to take me to Antarctica. A very nice couple took me in and took care of me. They refused to accept anything in return for their hospitality

MARAL YAZARLOO-PATRICK

**Epic journey** | Some of the countries visited by Maral Yazarloo-Patrick

Maral Yazarloo-Patrick during the journey; Ms. Yazarloo with her husband Alex. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

University of Pune, said the trip was exhilarating in more ways than one.

"Behind every beautiful picture I took, there was struggle," she said, recalling the extreme weather conditions, language barriers and the tiresome experience of driving constantly.

With only essential items needed to survive, she said the most eye-opening part was living without the luxuries she took for granted back home.

She said: "Opening my eyes the next morning, happy to be alive, was the greatest gift."

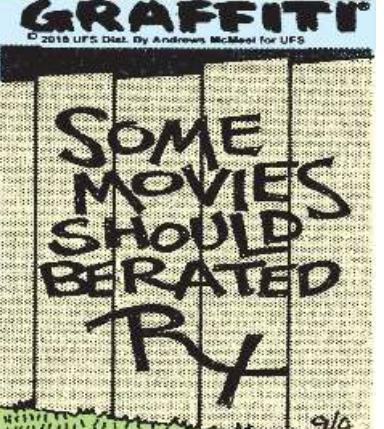


They refused to accept anything in return for their hospitality."

Travelling through Iran was probably the greatest moment for her. She became the first Iranian woman to get permission to ride the bike through her homeland.

She hoped that the Government of Iran would make her experience a reality for other Iranian women.

Explaining the name of her trip, 'Ride to be One', she said, "I believe that everyone is made of one energy. If everyone believes that, there will be no war. Before undertaking this trip, I promised not to hurt any living being. I also carried garbage bags to ensure I did not pollute any country I travelled through."

**POOCHE CAFE****HAGAR THE HORRIBLE****TIGER****WUMO****PEARLS BEFORE SWINE****PEANUTS****CALVIN AND HOBBES****GRAFFITI****THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12857**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		9				
10					11	
	12	13			14	
15						16
17	18		19	20		
21					22	
						23
					24	

© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

6 Grain for grinding (5)  
7 Develop gnashers (6)  
9 Apparently reasonable (9)  
13 Watch carefully (7)  
14 Increased 100% (7)  
15 Throwing event (6)  
16 Not subject to change (6)  
18 More capable (5)  
20 India's first prime minister (5)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated September 5, 2018.

Solution No. 12856

**Across**  
1 Aim – dissent (6)  
4 Plant disease – calamity (6)  
8 Lizard that can't blink (5)  
9 Nutty confection (7)  
10 Large retail outlets (7)  
11 Rabbit residence (5)  
12 Drunk – stole (9)  
17 Mosque prayer leaders (5)  
19 Grand dinner (7)  
21 Unit of heat energy (7)

**Down**  
2 Sesame flour and honey confection (5)  
3 One of the Home Counties (6)  
24 Consisting of a haphazard assortment (6)  
25 Tanned animal skin (7)  
26 Sesame oil (7)

A	S	P	A	R	A	G	U	S
P	W	T	A	U	R	W		
O	P	A	R	T	E	S	T	A
S	T	O	E	T	P	E		
T	R	E	R	I	N	W	H	E
G	B	L	E	T	W	O	C	H
E	U	Y	P	O	N	L		
S	I	F	T	E	X	T	B	O
T	F	P	S	S	V	I		
A	B	A	L	O	N	I	E	I
M	L	N	T	O	L	G		
P	Y	O	N	G	Y	A		

B N-D-NDE

THE HINDU NOIDA/DEHLI  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

## IN BRIEF



### Safety matters

As women's safety has emerged as a major concern in our country, The Imperial, in association with Delhi Police's Parivartan team, conducted its 15-day-long self defence training for its women associates. The training empowered the staff with techniques of safeguarding themselves in challenging situations. The Delhi Police instructors also approach and the methodology to defend oneself in difficult situations. The finale saw the presence of ACP Shashi Bala Kaushik, under whose guidance the training was conducted. Chief guest Additional DCP Kumar Ganesh talked about the role of Delhi Police for women's safety. Women employees demonstrated defence techniques like hand to hand combat moves, knocking an opponent to the ground and leg sweeps and handling a situation when one is grabbed by an attacker.

Vijay Wanchoo- Senior Executive Vice President & General Manager, The Imperial, said: "The training has instilled not only the right skills and confidence in them but has ensured their safety at all times."

**Climate change**  
A play titled "Prithvi", dealing with environmental catastrophe, was staged at India Habitat Centre recently. A mix of Hindi and English, the play was designed and directed by Kuljeet Singh. Set in Uttarakhand, the play looks at human-led environmental destruction. It revolves around Prithvi, an environment activist, whose father Ambar was murdered by those who do not believe in climate change.

I was contacted by someone from JAR Pictures and that's how I met Kanwal. I read the script and it was an immediate 'yes'. I have always wanted to do a love story but because I entered the industry pretty late I had some doubts because love stories are typically done by people who are aged 25-

30. Of course, the stars do it even at the age of 50-52 but then they are made to look young particularly; they colour their hair black and are decked up in a particular way to be able to perform. Also these stars who do romantic films they came in when they were 25-26 years old and so the audience have accepted them like that. The only thing I was sceptical about was the thought of audience acceptability. But, I believe the sensitivity with which Kanwal has dealt with the subject is commendable.

After a successful festival run, *Gali Guleyan* is finally set to release. What are your thoughts on the film?

*Gali Guleyan* deals with the psyche of an adult. He hears the shrieks of a child from his adjacent wall and he then fears that the child will be beaten to death by his father. Deeply disturbed, he begins a frantic search for the child. In the film, I play a father who is

the film is a documentary. There are plenty of dark stories out there, so they should be there in the films," explains Seresin, known for hits like *Gravity* and *Angel Heart*.

**Art vs commerce**  
Seresin, whose camera work is known to be dark and layered, likes to be associated with films that challenge one's imagination. Take for instance the 2017 thriller, *War of the Planet of the Apes* (WTPA). "It was a powerful film – unlike those where people walked out of the cinema and asked, 'where do you want to go for a hamburger?' At the risk of sounding pretentious, I do like that it made people think."

According to the BAFTA winning cinematographer, a number of reviewers treated it like a small art film rather than a blockbuster. For him, every money-making film, irrespective of the genre, is a boon to the industry. "If a film makes money, more movies can be made and there's more work for everyone," he says.

**Artistic synergy**  
With a career spanning more than four decades, Seresin is acclaimed for his collaborative work with British film director Alan Parker, for films like *Midnight Express* and *Angela's Ashes*. For him, it is crucial that the synergies of a cinematographer match with those of the director. "This comes from a shared overview of the film, its story and

"the aesthetics, be it shapes or body language." Similarly, the decision to work with Seresin on *Mowgli* predominantly came from the camaraderie the duo shared right from when Seresin played an ape in WTPA. "I would have never discussed his role and performance as an actor because that's not appropriate. Whereas as a director, I'm discussing the film with him everyday," he says.

**Going ahead**  
Seresin has sat on the director's seat just once in his career, with the 1988 drama, *Homeboy*. Will audiences get to see another side in this directorial venture? "Who knows? Directing wasn't easy, but I have another project in mind, which I keep revisiting," he says. He hopes to get started on a script by actor Gary Oldman based on the life of English photographer, Eadward Muybridge.

"The script is brilliant and I hope to do something smaller for a change." As for the cinematographer's wine ventures at Seresin Estate, he believes it keeps his social exposure rich and varied. "In the wine world I could meet philosopher, a cab driver, a fisherman, a poet even. Whereas with films, you only meet film people. At dinner in the wine world, everyone brings something to the table. Cinema is a lot more selfish," he concludes.

**War of the Planet of the Apes**  
*will air on September 6 at 3 pm on Star Movies*

**Beyond the obvious**  
Ahead of Teachers' Day, filmmaker Subhash Ghai has a message for all the students. "Look beyond the obvious. When you study anything or work on anything, try to go into details because God lies in details and around the obvious," said Ghai.

Ghai has been honoured by Sony YAY! as part of their flagship Teachers' Day initiative

**Heroes Behind The Heroes'**  
The initiative honours and recognises the hard work put in by the teachers and global icons from diverse fields.

**IANS**

**CM YK**

# Neeraj Kabi and his art of transformation

The versatile actor talks about his craft and his long struggle in the Hindi film industry

### MURTAZA ALI KHAN

Neeraj Kabi is finally getting his due. After impressing with his ability to get into the skin of the character in films such as *Ship of Theseus*, *Detective Byomkesh Bakshy!* *Talvar* and *Hungry*, Neeraj recently impressed with his powerful performance as a wily police officer in *Sacred Games*. Taking forward his association with Netflix, Neeraj is now making news for *Once Again*, the Kanwal Sethi romance between two mature persons. Few know that Neeraj started his film career way back in 1997, with A.K. Bir's National Award-winning film *The Last Vision*, but it wasn't until his riveting turn as a monk, a comeback of sorts after a 16-year-long hiatus, in Anand Gandhi's *Ship of Theseus* that he finally started getting people's attention. Since then he has been in demand, and has showed an ability to adjust to a more mainstream space with *Hichki*. Having said that, this week he will be seen playing yet another complex character in Deepesh Jain's festival-favourite *Gali Guleyan*.

**Excerpts:**  
**What is Once Again all about?**

It is an unconventional love story. The expression of it is not what you see or have been seeing for many years now. In most of our love stories the people are quite young in age. *Once Again* is a love story about two mature people looking for companionship. I play a film star who is a divorcee. My daughter is there but she stays away from me. Shefali plays a restaurant owner who provides me with my meals. That's how the love story begins. This man is extremely lonely and is looking for a companion. It's not for seeking sexual pleasure but out of a genuine need for companionship.

I was contacted by someone from JAR Pictures and that's how I met Kanwal. I read the script and it was an immediate 'yes'. I have always wanted to do a love story but because I entered the industry pretty late I had some doubts because love stories are typically done by people who are aged 25-



In love with shades of grey: Neeraj Kabi ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

caring yet brutally violent at the same time with his own child. There are these huge shifts that you will get to see in this man. You can't call him a villain. You can't even call him a victim of circumstances. The film takes you on a very beautiful emotional journey. You really have to watch the film to experience it.

**You have been known to get into the skin of every character that you play. How important is the art of disguise for an actor?**

I prefer using the term transformation. The whole process of acting is transformation. What is your power, quality and level of transformation, define you as an actor. How much can you transform? Can you transform your body? Can you transform your mind? Can you transform your psyche and ultimately can you transform your soul into that of the character? If you can do that then you are a great performer. That's what all of acting has turned out to me up till now.

How do you transform and how do you express this transformation to the audience... that is called acting. Many can transform but don't know how to express it. Many can express but don't know how to transform. The complete actor is he/she who can transform and express it and take it to the audience and make them feel that transformation.

**There was a long gap between The Last Vision and Ship of Theseus. What kept you busy during those years?**

There were many things that kept me occupied but I can't really talk about them because it's been a very personal journey of growth for me. Actually, I came to Mumbai from Jamshedpur in 1991 to become an actor. I began searching for work and I was all alone and absolutely empty-handed, no craft and nobody that I knew. So it was a long struggle of 19 years from 1991 to 2010 when *Ship of Theseus* finally came to me.

And even after *Ship of Theseus* it took some time to get going. So those years have been my years of

growth, of theatre, of learning, of inventing, of struggling to survive, of pain, of everything.

**You are not just an actor but also an acting teacher. How do the two roles differ?**

Both are interconnected. You see I have invented my entire methodology single-handedly on my own. Whatever I do is my own invention. So all this seeps into my training as well. So whatever I teach, I research and I practice, and I then put it into performance. And I again go back and teach the same thing. So it's foolproof because I can see the results happening. When I teach you something, I can show you the result immediately. I do it myself and I show them my work. So I don't land up showing them other people's works. It takes a lot of courage to do that but I think it's the best thing for a teacher to teach by his own examples.

**Tell us about your influences and inspirations. Also tell us about your upcoming projects.**

My biggest inspiration has been life for me. Basic survival has been my biggest teacher. Surviving in Mumbai for so many years has been a huge ordeal. During my two-decade-long struggle, I think I would have travelled through all the lanes of Mumbai. Walking through them, I have experienced loneliness and there were instances when I had no food in my stomach.

I have done so many kinds of things just to survive. All this after coming from a college where I had won the student of the year award and so from there I had to plunge down absolutely, deep down to basics.

My upcoming projects include *The Field*, directed by Rohit Batra. It's an international project which also stars Abhay Deol and Ronit Roy. Then I am doing another indie film with Goutam Ghose that also stars Adil Hussain and Tilottama Shome. I am also shooting for a film called *Hunter* with Saif Ali Khan which is directed by Navdeep Singh.

## SHORT TAKES

### Mix of cultures

To take filmgoers on unique journeys across the country, Filmbooth has come up with Delhi Doc Festival: A journey called India, a three-day festival of documentaries, an antiSOCIAL in Hauz Khas Village, beginning September 7.

From *An Insignificant Man* rising amidst a political turmoil to *Ask The Sexpert* counselling couples to *Martyrs of Marriage* seeking advice or justice, the 15 films focus on subcultures within the country. The festival will also see acclaimed films such as *Jasoos* by Anandana Kapur and *Pushkar Puran* by Kamal Swaroop.

"If cinema is our most powerful art form, documentary is both its beating heart and its conscience. It holds a mirror to our society and it holds our conscience to account. At Filmbooth, we have observed the trend and curated these amazing films showing some of the most mysterious stories, journeys, and stories from across India," Gaurav Raturi, curator, Delhi Doc Festival.

### Beyond the obvious

Ahead of Teachers' Day, filmmaker Subhash Ghai has a message for all the students. "Look beyond the obvious. When you study anything or work on anything, try to go into details because God lies in details and around the obvious," said Ghai.

Ghai has been honoured by Sony YAY! as part of their flagship Teachers' Day initiative



'Heroes Behind The Heroes'

The initiative honours and recognises the hard work put in by the teachers and global icons from diverse fields.

**IANS**

## 5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



### DANCE

#### Performance by differently-abled artists

On the occasion of World Spinal Cord Injury Day, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) is organising dance performances by differently-abled artists on wheelchairs. The programme will comprise classical dance forms like Bharatanatyam and modern dance forms like Salsa and performance on popular patriotic songs.

**VENUE:** Talkatora Indoor Stadium

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.



### EXHIBITION

#### Reflections

Purnendu Mandal has recently created innovative work in acrylic and oil colours on canvas. "Reflections - 3" depicts Kolkata and other cities in its multifaceted iconic forms. Mandal's work also depicts visual effects of monsoon like rain drops, fog, wet climate, reflections in water and shades of dampness.

**VENUE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



### DANCE

#### Krishna Leela

A solo Bharatanatyam performance by Vidhushi Veena C Seshadri on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami. Invoking and glorifying Lord Krishna's acts and words that preaches supreme to sublime love, wisdom, and intellect to humanity.

**VENUE:** The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

**TIME:** 7 p.m.



### EXHIBITION

#### Harvest-2018

Payal Kapoor of Arushi Arts presents "Moving into the Future - Harvest 2018", a group show curated by Suneet Chopra, which will have the works of masters, sculptors, tribals and young artists. Over the years, the exhibition has been reflecting the trends in our contemporary art as they develop.

**VENUE:** The Stainless Gallery, New Friends Colony

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



### FILM

#### Lola Pater

Written and directed by Nadir Moknèche, the film tells a painful and difficult story without sensationalising the subject matter. After the death of his mother, Zini is told by a solicitor that that his father Farid lives in Paris. But 25 years ago, Farid became Lola.

**VENUE:** M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Alliance Francaise De Delhi, 72, Lodhi Estate

**TIME:** 10 a.m.

## 6 TECH

## TECH-A-BYTE



## Facebook tests tool to help users make new connections

Facebook is trying out a new tool that will help its users connect with people who are not on their friends list in a more meaningful manner, by pointing to commonalities with them. The new feature, 'things in common', which is currently available only to select users in the US, helps users connect with new people by showing information such as whether they share a neighbourhood with them or they went to the same university. Facebook clarified that the information displayed is only that which is publicly available.



## AWS adds Hindi language support for Amazon Polly

Amazon Web Services has added Hindi language support for Amazon Polly, a machine-learning service that turns text into lifelike speech, allowing users to create applications that talk and build new categories of speech-enabled products. 'Aditi' and 'Raavenna' are the two Indian English voices currently available on Amazon Polly, along with a variety of other voices in multiple languages to synthesise speech from text. With the new addition, 'Aditi' now also speaks fluent Hindi. The Amazon Polly portfolio now includes 53 voices across 26 languages. "With the new bilingual Indian English and Hindi voice, organisations can enhance automated customer engagement applications, interactive voice responses and targeted vernacular language services," Madhusudan Shekar, Principal Technical Evangelist, Amazon Internet Services Pvt Ltd, said.



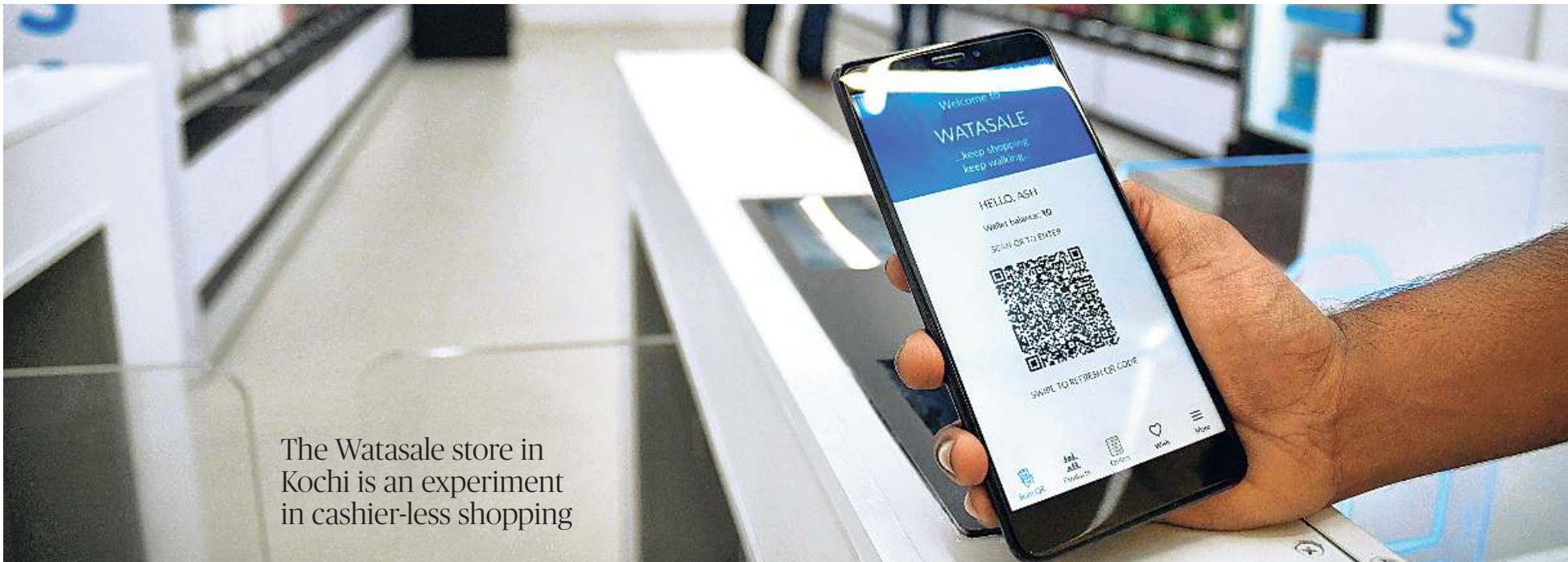
## Prysm unveils LPD 6K large display video wall

Prysm, a leading visual collaboration solutions provider, has introduced its Laser Phosphor Display 6K series in India. The interactive, single panel display offers a seamless and immersive visual experience, with screen sizes of 190 and 135 inches. The bezel-free viewing comes with built-in interactivity with more than 32 simultaneous touchpoints. The durable front screen, made of a specially coated polycarbonate layer, is rolled into a cylinder for easy transport. So integrators can negotiate tight corners and pass through standard doors and elevators for set-up, something nearly impossible for traditional large-format displays, the company said. On the 'Prysm screen' any type of content can be projected at the same time: Word, PDF, PPT, worksheet, video and more.



## Focus shifting from ransomware to cryptocurrency mining

Cybercriminals are moving away from attention-grabbing ransomware attacks to more covert methods, with the objective of stealing money and valuable computing resources. According to a report by security solutions firm Trend Micro, stealing of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoins from digital wallets (an activity known as cryptojacking) was making the biggest impact so far this year. An increase of 96% in cryptocurrency mining was detected by the firm in the first half of 2018, compared to all of 2017, and a massive 956% increase in detections versus the first half of 2017.



The Watasale store in Kochi is an experiment in cashier-less shopping

## The future of retail?

ANASUYA MENON

There are no long-winding queues or slow cashiers at Watasale. In fact, there is no cashier at all. At this fully-automated store recently launched by a Kochi-based startup at the city's Gold Soul Grande Mall, customers get a hands-on experience of what cashier-less shopping feels like. This is the age of the automated retail store, which does away with needless human interaction.

While the concept was spearheaded by Amazon, which has its Amazon Go store in Seattle, the rest of the world is still waking up to the many possibilities of disruptive retail. American retail giant Walmart has announced a partnership with Microsoft to launch cashier-free stores.

The 'just-walk-out' technology, that the Watasale store is based on, is a first of its kind in India, claim the founders. Unlike in a brick-and-mortar shop, shopping is hassle-free. There is no need to scan the products, generate the bill, enter the card pin, or get the bill

checked at the exit. It runs on a combination of Artificial Intelligence (AI), computer vision and sensor fusion, the same technology that is employed in self-driving cars.

The store at the Gold Soul Grande is rather small, with two racks on either side, one for toiletries and the other for groceries. For the curious, this is how it works: prospective customers have to download the Watasale app from the Play store and enter the store by scanning the QR code at the entrance. Pick up the products, toss them into your bag and walk out; the money gets automatically deducted from the customer's account through credit card or an integrated wallet.

"This is the future of shopping," says Rajesh Malamal, the chief marketing officer of the company, "Though this is a pilot run, we are a live store. The footfalls are just picking up, but we want to give people the ultimate automated shopping experience." Three years of research and multiple trial runs have gone into setting up



**Shop easy:** The store and (below, left to right) Rajesh Malamal, CMO, Subhash S, CEO and Richu Jose, COO • THULASI KAKKAT



the store. The technology and logistics were developed by an in-house team.

The experience is not starkly impersonal as one might imagine. Shop assistants have been appointed, who help customers get familiar with the way the technology works. "Anything from fresh produce to beverages, packed food and pharmaceuticals can be sold through this model. This can also be scaled up to a hypermarket, based on how well our people adapt to the technology," Richu adds.

In terms of security, it is no different from an ordinary store, only safer, in that it cuts the risk of shoplifting.

Watasale micro stores are the next step in the plan. These 'stores next door' will be deployed in apartment complexes, housing areas, workplaces and transit areas.

These work as upgraded vending machines, but on the same cashier-less principle, where the customer can scan the QR code and pick up what they need. These micro stores can be placed in any location, and the customers can use them at any time of the day for groceries, daily essentials, food items and the like.

Watasale is planning to expand to Bengaluru and Delhi, and the company also plans to open franchisee stores, and as a later step, include farmers by directly purchasing from them and delivering fresh produce to consumers.



**What comes after:** Images from post-apocalyptic games • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Horizon Zero Dawn

One of the best games of 2017, Horizon Zero Dawn presents a lush open world filled with dinosaurs; except these dinos are large machines that roam the lands. You play an outcast named Aloy, a proven hunter and tracker who, despite her social status, finds herself on a quest to find out the origins of these giant mechanical beasts. While the post-apocalyptic part is most definitely a mini spoiler, it's a superbly told story, and the excellent pacing and environments are a masterclass in world building. Not to mention it's got some of the best graphics we've seen on the Playstation 4 thus far.

## The Last of Us 2

As a game, The Last of Us was a work of art and storytelling. Painting a world ravaged by a different kind of zombie and the lives of those people who struggle to survive this. While most games paint a fantasy-like picture, The Last of Us feels utterly real, as you follow Joel and a little girl named Ellie, as they make their way to safety. Now, Ellie has grown up, and the glimpses we have had of the game require a strong stomach to sit through, as we see some very real dismemberment and gore, to hit home the reality of the situation.



## The End is Nigh

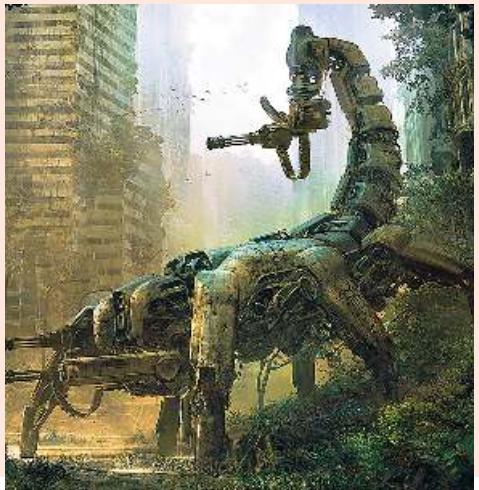
With a whole lot of post-apocalyptic games releasing in the coming months, let's explore the world after the unthinkable has happened

JULIAN ALMEIDA

The words 'I don't want to set the world on fire' play out of a radio, as the camera pans out slowly to reveal a world devastated by nuclear war, as the crooning continues with 'I just want to start a flame in your heart', into ominous silence. That is how Fallout 3 opened, giving us our first-person glimpse of the apocalypse. With the release of Wasteland 2: Director's Cut on the Nintendo Switch right around the corner and Fallout 76, Rage 2, The Last of Us 2 and Dying Light 2 launching in the coming months, we decide to look at what we love so much about the Post-Apocalyptic genre, and what are the best games out there. The post-apocalyptic genre may have had its roots in nuclear, but it also explores worlds ravaged by zombies, disease and drought.

## Wasteland 2

Releasing soon on the Nintendo Switch, Wasteland 2 Director's Cut is a traditional CRPG (Computer Role-Playing Game) in the vein of the original Fallout 1 and 2. The first Wasteland game came out in 1988, and was the inspiration behind Fallout. Wasteland 2 is filled with lots of text to read, with a deep storyline and engaging tactical combat that is not for the faint of heart. Though if you want to relive the glory days of CRPGs, this is it and perfect for your Nintendo Switch.



*The writer is a tech and gaming enthusiast who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel*



## Dying Light 2

Parkour meets zombies in the surprise hit Dying Light. A game that came out of nowhere with excellent melee fighting mechanics and Assassin's Creed-like first-person free running across the ruins. The zombies too were strong, but at night, that's when they get frenzied and things get really scary. Now, Dying Light 2 is almost upon us, and it's got legendary game designer Chris Avellone working on it. Featuring an open world with a decision tree that could mean life or death for the groups of survivors.



## Fallout 76

The Fallout series is unique for the '60s sci-fi envisioned as an advanced retro futuristic world. The latest game, Fallout 76, is set in West Virginia in a prequel, as you play one of the first vault dwellers to emerge out of the safe confines of Vault 76 to brave the world ahead of them.

## Metro 2033 series

A definitive post-apocalyptic game, the Metro series focuses on a horror first-person shooter survival experience, as most of the game takes place in the Metro tunnels under a nuclear-ravaged Moscow. You sometimes break surface to take in the sun, but it's usually safer down in the tunnels, or so you think. Metro 2033's success saw the launch of the even better Metro: Last Light, with an incredible graphics engine that rendered very real environments of urban decay. Now Metro Exodus has reared its ugly head.

