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THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018

DELHI
CITY EDITION
36 pages • ₹10.00

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

NEARBY



One held for vandalising car in Moti Nagar

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday arrested a kanwariya involved in vandalising a car in Moti Nagar on Tuesday. He was identified as Rahul alias Billa, a resident of Gurpreet Nagar in Uttam Nagar. He was previously involved in a theft case registered against him at the Uttam Nagar police station.

DELHI METRO ▸ PAGE 1

Court takes police to task over language

NEW DELHI

A Karkardooma court here has asked the Delhi Police to avoid using antiquated words and phrases like *laaparwahi*, *gaflat* and *tezraftaari* in the chargesheet they file in every road accident case. The police can use synonyms for these words, it said.

DELHI METRO ▸ PAGE 1

FRIDAY REVIEW ▸ 12 PAGES (TABLOID)
DELHIMETRO ▸ 6 PAGES

Opposition loses the battle for RS Deputy Chairman

JD(U)'s Harivansh trounces Congress nominee Hariprasad by 125 to 101 votes

SOBHANA K NAIR
NEW DELHI

NDA candidate and JD(U) MP Harivansh was elected the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, defeating Opposition candidate and Congress MP B.K. Hariprasad.

The final tally of votes showed 125 for Mr. Harivansh and 101 for Mr. Hariprasad. Four Congress MPs had polled their vote twice. They sent in paper ballots also, thinking that their votes had not been electronically recorded.

This is the first significant victory scored by the ruling NDA in the Rajya Sabha, where the Opposition is in a majority, and could pave the way for an assertive BJP. With 73 MPs, the BJP is now the largest party in the House.



The victor: Harivansh, who was elected Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Modi pitches in

The ruling party's seriousness in getting the post was underscored by the fact that Union Minister Arun Jaitley, recuperating from renal failure, attended the House for the first time to register his vote.

In his speech felicitating Mr. Harivansh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "While the outcome of the election was known, yet there was a contest as per procedures and the new members got training in how to vote in the House." The comments summed up the much awaited election, which started out as a thriller but ended as a one-sided match when the Biju Janata Dal (with nine members) decided to throw its weight behind the NDA nominee.

BJD springs a surprise

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's decision took his own MPs by surprise, since the party has been carefully walking the middle path between the ruling party and the Opposition bloc.

The Opposition came to know of Mr. Patnaik's decision as late as Tuesday afternoon when the NCP called the Chief Minister to seek his support for its candidate Vandana Chavan.

However, none of the other Opposition parties, including the Congress, made a serious effort to woo the BJD. West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress president Mamata Banerjee, who was leading the co-ordination effort, too, did not take the step.

On the other hand, Mr. Modi personally spoke to Mr. Patnaik, and this was followed by calls from BJP president Amit Shah and Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

A total of 16 members were absent, most from the Opposition ranks, while the treasury benches had full attendance.

Three Aam Aadmi Party MPs remained absent since Congress president Rahul Gandhi failed to call Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, a condition set by the AAP for supporting Mr. Hariprasad.

Three Congress MPs – T. Subbarami Reddy, Viplove Thakur and Ranee Narah – were absent. While the first two could not attend for health reasons, Ms. Narah switched over to the BJP.

Trinamool MPs K.D. Singh and Manas Ranjan Bhunia were absent. Two DMK MPs, including Kanimozhi, could not participate because of the death of party leader M. Karunanidhi.

The Samajwadi Party had three absentees – Jaya Bachchan, Beni Prasad Verma and C.P.S. Yadav. Two MPs of the recently estranged NDA ally, Peoples Democratic Party, which had initially signalled support for the Opposition, also stayed away, taking the total number of absentees in the House to 12.

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EDITOR WHO BACKED SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS REPORTING ▸ PAGE 10

SC alters Lodha's BCCI proposals

One State-one vote norm junked

New road map

Some key alterations made by the Supreme Court to the Lodha panel's recommendations

Voting rights
Lodha: One State, one vote
SC verdict: Not accepted. Associations based in Maharashtra and Gujarat will retain full membership

Membership in BCCI
Lodha: No full membership to associations with no State entity
SC verdict: Services, Railways & Association of Indian Universities will have full membership

Cooling-off period
Lodha: After one term
SC verdict: After two consecutive terms

Tenure of post
Lodha: Total of 9 years at the BCCI or State associations
SC verdict: Decision pending

Age cap | **Lodha:** 70 years | **SC verdict:** Decision pending

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has finalised the new Constitution for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), rejecting the 'one State-one vote' recommendation of the Justice R.M. Lodha Committee and altering the cooling-off period for cricket bosses.

Softening the rigour of the recommendations, a three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, on Thursday disagreed with Justice Lodha that cricket could prosper only if the BCCI was represented by every State and Union Territory. The former CJI had relegated cricket associations to the status of associate members.

Instead, the court restored full BCCI memberships to three associations in Gujarat and Maharashtra each. They are the Maharashtra, Mumbai and Vidarbha cricket associations in Maharashtra and the Baroda and Saurashtra cricket associations in Gujarat.

"To utilise territoriality as a basis of exclusion is problematic because it ignores history and the contributions made by such associations to the development of cricket and its popularity," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, who wrote the judgment, reasoned.

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'I AM DISAPPOINTED' ▸ PAGE 15
SC TWEAKS COOLING-OFF PERIOD RULE ▸ PAGE 15

Sensex soars above 38,000 to a record high

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The benchmark BSE Sensex continued its dizzying climb on Thursday, soaring to a new closing record of 38,024.37 on sustained stock purchases by overseas and domestic institutional investors. The index added 136.81 points or 0.36%.

The 30-company index breached the 38,000-mark for the first time to notch up one of its fastest 1,000 point rallies after closing above 37,000 just 9 sessions earlier, on July 27.

Banking majors ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and the State Bank of India were at the forefront of the Sensex charge, gaining 4.6%, 3.9% and 2.5% respectively, while metals major Vedanta and state-run NTPC and Power Grid Corporation were among the other leading gainers.

While the Sensex pack saw 18 members gaining ground, the overall market breadth still remained mildly weak, with 1,331 stocks advancing against 1,351 declines.

The broader 50-stock Nifty of the National Stock Exchange also settled the day at a new high of 11,470.70, up 20.70 points.

DIZZYING CLIMB ▸ PAGE 13

22 killed as rain batters Kerala

Army deployed in worst-affected areas for rescue and relief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Large parts of Kerala woke up to chaos and devastation on Thursday as a renewed monsoon unleashed torrential rain across the eastern parts of the State, triggering flash floods and landslips and bringing normal life to a halt. State Disaster Control Room sources said 22 people had died in rain-related incidents since Wednesday, 17 of them falling victim to landslips in Idukki and Malapuram districts.

The Army has been deployed in the worst-affected districts of Idukki, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Malappuram to assist in rescue and relief work. Units of the NDRF were also rushed to Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Kozhikode.



Under water: The flooded Sundaram Colony in Palakkad town on Thursday. ▪ K. K. MUSTAFAH

Terming the flood situation grim, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the State was facing a disaster of unprecedented magnitude.

Sluice gates in as many as 24 dams across the State were opened after the water level in the reservoirs neared the danger mark. People downstream have been warned of flash floods.

Wayanad district was cut off from the rest of the State by a series of landslips .Most rivers in the State are in spate due to heavy inflow in the catchment areas following incessant rain. As many as 11 people were reported dead in Idukki, six in Malappuram, two in Kozhikode and one in Wayanad.

SLUICE GATES OPENED AS DAMS FILL UP ▸ PAGE 5

27 resorts in Nilgiris jumbo path to be shut

SC sets 48-hour deadline for closure

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the Tamil Nadu government to shut down illegal resorts operating in the elephant corridor in the Nilgris district, saying "elephants are our heritage." "We are destroying our heritage," Justice Madan B. Lokur, heading a three-judge Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and S. Abdul Nazeer, observed.

The Bench gave the State government a 48-hour deadline to seal or close 27 commercial establishments after perusing a report submitted by the Nilgris District Collector on a total 39 resorts. Noting that there was no legal representation for the resort owners, the Bench said this would be deemed as an acceptance of the report filed by the Collector. "They are directed to be closed down or sealed by the Collector. We have requested counsel for the State to do the needful within 48 hours," the Bench observed. The court granted 48 hours for the remaining 12 of the 39 resorts to produce documents showing approval and valid title for land. "In case, the Collector finds that the documentation is incomplete or approval not granted, she should close down and seal the premises immediately thereafter," it said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Nod for three changes to triple talaq Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved three crucial amendments to the triple talaq Bill, including a provision for bail to an accused before the start of trial.

These three provisions to the Muslim Women Protection of Rights on Marriage Bill, which makes instant triple talaq illegal and imposes a jail term of up to three years, provide additional safeguards from the Act being misused.

While the proposed law will remain "non-bailable" – the police cannot grant bail at the police station – the accused can approach a magistrate for bail even before trial.

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A solar-powered fridge for street food vendors

It will ensure hygienic food and reduce wastage of perishable ingredients

SARUMATHI K.
BENGALURU

Every evening, at Sanjaynagar, a quiet residential neighbourhood, Chaat Street, as it is popularly known, becomes a street food hub that draws food lovers from across the city. Around 10 to 15 vendors set up stalls offering everything from chaat and momos to idlis, parathas and 99 varieties of dosa.

With street food, however, hygiene and freshness of ingredients are always a concern. Aakarsh Shamanur, a Bengaluru-based architect and systems integrator, believes he has a solution: community refrigeration. He had pitched the idea at the 'Reimagine Waste' Hackathon conducted by the non-profit Waste Impact Trust and the Centre for Product Design and Manufacturing, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), last year, and won a grant of ₹50,000.

Pilot project

Now, Mr. Shamanur has launched a pilot project at Sanjaynagar with the support of Citizens for Sustainability, a civic group. Four street food vendors, selling dosa, idli, vada, and paratha, have been provided with mini-refrigerators to store perishable ingredients and food items such as chutney and batter. The fridge is placed in a truck near the push carts so that vendors can access it easily.

"Before launching the pilot on August 4, we spoke to the vendors and customers. They told us that chutney and some side dishes turned stale quickly. When we put forward the fridge idea, the vendors readily agreed to try it," Mr. Shamanur said.

"The truck with the fridge is stationed only from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. The idea is to offer fresh food to customers. The pilot will be run for a few days, and based on the feedback from the vendors, a solar-powered refrigerator will be installed in the vending zone," he said, adding that the model could be replicated in other areas where there is a high concentration of street food vendors. The fridge provided in the pilot run is an electrical one.

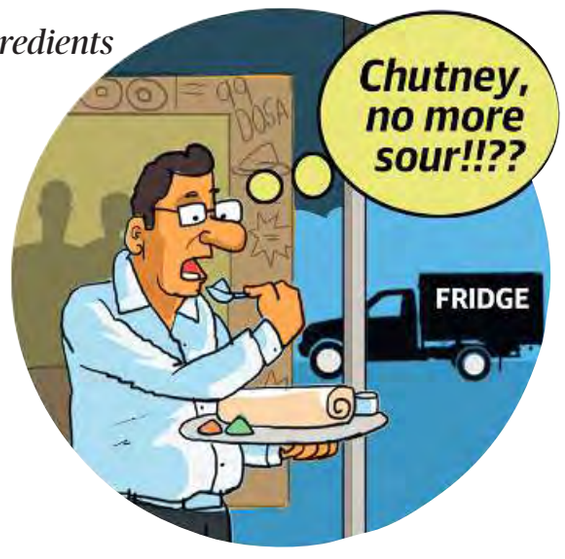


ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Shivramegowda, who runs a dosa stall here, found that he no longer had to throw away ingredients that had gone bad. "Keeping chutney and the batter from turning sour has been a problem. Sometimes, I would have to throw the stale chutney. Now, I store half of it in the fridge," he said. The solar fridge will be given on a monthly subscription.

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DISTRICT PROGRAMME OFFICER
WOMEN & CHILD DEPARTMENT, FARIDABAD

The Following post under ICPS Scheme are to be filled on contractual basis and their appointment will be made full time and part time basis with consolidated salary as per ICPS Scheme.

Category 1. One Counsellor (Full Time)@17,500/- per month

Qualification & Experience:

- Master Degree with Psychology / Social Work / Child Development from any recognised university.
- Minimum 55% and having consistent academic record.
- Hindi and Sanskrit upto Matric.
- Working knowledge of Computer.
- Preference will be given to experience in Counselling.
- Age 25-45 Yrs.

Category 2. One Probation officer / Child Welfare officer / Case Worker@17,500/- per month.

Qualification & Experience:

- Master Degree with Psychology / Social Work / Child Development from any recognised University.
- Minimum 60% and having consistent academic record.
- Minimum 3 yrs. experience in the field of Child Welfare/ Social Welfare/ Child Protection issues e.g. Child Rights in Govt./Semi Govt. organization or in Govt. registered CCI.
- Hindi and Sanskrit upto Matric
- Age 30-42 Yrs.

Category 3. Four House Father@11,000/- per month.

Qualification & Experience:

- Graduate.
- Knowledge of Hindi upto Matric.
- Minimum 01 yr. experience in the field of Child Welfare/ Social Welfare.
- Age 30-42 Yrs.

Category 4. One Para Medical Staff @9,000/- per month.

Qualification & Experience:

- 10+2 with Science (Physics & Chemistry).
- Pharmacist Course Diploma From Medical College, Rohtak or any other recognized institute recognized by Haryana Govt. with Training in injection, dressing and Ward work in a recognized Hospital.
- Registered as Pharmacist With Haryana Pharmacy Council under section 31(a) or 31(c) 32(a) of Pharmacy act, 1948 as applicable in Haryana State.
- Hindi and Sanskrit upto Matric
- Age 21-42 Yrs.

Category 5. Two Helper @ 6,000/- per month.

Qualification & Experience:

- Matric.
- Hindi and Sanskrit upto Matric
- Age 30-42 Yrs.

Self attested copy of documents should be sent to the District Programme Officer, Sec-15 A, old ADC campus, opposite BSNL Exchange, on Phone No.-0129-2265199, Faridabad on any working day Monday to Friday (9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.) till 20-08-2018.

District Programme Officer,
PRDH-69983 **Women & Child Department, Faridabad**

DELHI Timings

FRIDAY, AUG. 10			
RISE	05:48	SET	19:05
RISE	04:16	SET	18:18
SATURDAY, AUG. 11			
RISE	05:48	SET	19:04
RISE	05:24	SET	19:12
SUNDAY, AUG. 12			
RISE	05:49	SET	19:04
RISE	06:33	SET	20:00

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	36	28
Safdarjang	36	28
Palam	36	27

Delhi Palam Today
35ºC Thunderstorm or light rains are expected. A warm morning will prevail with a partially cloudy sky and humid day.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35ºC Few spells of rain will prevail with a windswept day. Morning will be warm and partly cloudy sky.

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IN BRIEF



Two held over threat to kill CM Chouhan

BHOPAL

Two brothers were arrested in M.P.'s Seoni district on Thursday after one of them allegedly tweeted that he was going to kill CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. "We arrested Jitendra (32) and Bharat Arjunwar (25) under the IT Act and relevant IPC sections. Jitendra had tweeted five times between August 2 and 7 that he was going to kill the CMr," a senior officer said. PTI

Six suffocate to death in septic tank in Bihar

MOTIHARI

Six persons, including four members of a family, died of suffocation after inhaling poisonous gases when they entered a septic tank in East Champaran district. The incident happened at the house of Dinesh Mahto (45) in Bela Jeepur village. PTI

Anger mounts in AAP against rebels

Party office-bearers discuss way out of dissidence; Mann wants to reach out to Khaira, Sandhu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Hit by infighting, the Punjab unit of the Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday convened a meeting to deliberate on the current problems being faced within the party and find a possible solution.

The meeting was attended by district presidents, halqa presidents and other wing chiefs. Party co-president Balbir Singh, Member of Parliament from Sangrur Bhagwant Mann and the leader of the Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema were also present at the meeting.



Rebel MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira speaks to media persons during a press conference in Amritsar on Thursday. ▪ AFP

Demand for action

"A majority of the office-bearers suggested action against legislators Sukhpal Singh Khaira and Kanwar Sandhu for their attempts to break the party," said an official statement.

Mr. Mann said that before any action is initiated he will try to reach out to the two leaders and try to convince them. "The MLAs are in touch with me and I am sure that they will fall in line soon and work to strengthen the party," he said.

Mr. Mann said that he will meet the people throughout the State in the coming days and would hold meetings at Bathinda, Faridkot, Mansa, Moga and Sri Mukatsar Sahib. "This is a testing time for the party workers and I am sure that they would not let me down," he said.

Party members informed that a meeting of AAP leader Manish Sisodia, who is also the party's Punjab affairs incharge, at Jalandhar on August 13 has been postponed.

Infighting family matter: Kejriwal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ROHTAK

Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday played down the infighting in the party's Punjab unit, calling it a family matter.

"Fights do take place among members of a family. It will be resolved," he told reporters here. He also hit out at Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, saying, "he doesn't know how to work".

The Punjab unit of the AAP went into a crisis after party legislator Sukhpal Singh Khaira was removed recently from the post of Leader of the Opposition in Assembly. Mr. Khaira has called Mr. Kejriwal and Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia "dictators".

On being asked about the resignations tendered in March by Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann and Sunam MLA Aman Arora as president and co-president of the State unit, Mr. Kejriwal said both posts are vacant. At the same time, he added that the resignations were not accepted by the party.

65-year-old beaten to death over cow dispute

Victim had sold cows to the accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOTA (RAJASTHAN)

A 65-year-old cattle trader was allegedly beaten to death in Rajasthan's Baran district by a man who complained that the cows sold to him were not producing enough milk, the police said on Thursday.

Dhannalal Gujar suffered critical injuries after he was beaten with sticks by Prakash Gujar (30) on Wednesday afternoon in Baran city, around 270 km from Jaipur. The sexagenarian was rushed to a district hospital, from where he was referred to another hospital in Kota. He succumbed to his injuries the same night, said Baran city Station House Ofiicer Kalu Ram Verma.

Milk complaint

Initial investigations revealed that the two had an argument after Dhannalal's son sold some cows to Prakash, who complained that they were not producing enough milk, the SHO said. The police have lodged a murder case against the accused, who is absconding. Dhannalal's post-mortem is under way, the SHO said.

SAD, BJP oppose Justice Gill's appointment as Punjab Lokpal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The SAD-BJP combine on Thursday urged Punjab Governor V.P. Singh Badnore to refuse assent to the appointment of "Congressman" Justice Mehtab Singh Gill (retd.) as the Lokpal, saying he did not meet the constitutional, political and moral qualifications needed for the post.

A joint delegation led by SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and BJP leader Parveen Bansal submitted a memorandum to the Governor detailing Justice Gill's "close association with the Congress as well as Chief Minister Amarinder Singh".



SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal speaks to the media outside Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh on Thursday. ▪ AKHILESH KUMAR

"Justice Gill (retd.) abused power as head of the Commission of Inquiry formed by the Congress government to look into cases during the Akali-BJP regime," the delegation said. The delegation stressed that the Lokpal should be a person of impeccable character and represent public interest.

Mob attack on speech-impaired person

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JHABUA (M.P.)

A speech-impaired person was allegedly assaulted by a mob at Meghnagar railway station in Madhya Pradesh's Jhabua district on suspicion of being a child lifter.

The incident happened on Wednesday night when the victim, suspected to be a transgender, was stopped by a woman whose baby was allegedly stolen from Ujjain railway station three months ago, a police officer said.

Child lifting suspicion

"The woman saw the person behaving in a suspicious manner and accused him of being a child lifter. Her another son claimed that he had seen that person with his brother," said GRP ASI Bathusingh Bilore.

After the woman raised an alarm, a mob gathered at the spot and beat up the person before handing him over to the police, he said.

The police later realised that the person was speech-impaired, Mr. Bilore said, adding that they suspect that the person is a transgender. The police asked the person to write about his identity, but he wrote in a script that they couldn't read.

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Assam flood situation improves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam has improved considerably with only Golaghat district remaining in the grip of floodwaters on Thursday.

According to the report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), a population of 35,611 in 53 villages of the district are currently suffering in the second wave of the floods that has hit the State.

The district administration has set up 38 relief camps where 13,157 inmates have taken shelter.

The total number of persons who lost their lives in the two waves of flood this year across different parts of the State stands at 45, including three in the landslides. Crop area of 3,378 hectares was still under flood water in the district.

Maoists being brought to create bloodbath in Jhargram: Mamata

Bengal CM goes on charm offensive in the district after poor show in rural polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JHARGRAM (WB)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday accused the BJP of creating division among people on the basis of religion, caste and creed, while asking them to repose faith in her as she would never allow anybody to act against their interests.

During a visit to Jhargram district, her first after the panchayat polls in May this year, the Trinamool Congress chief urged the people to stay united against communal forces and stop them from entering the district.

The BJP had fared well at the rural polls in the tribal-dominated district.

Ms. Banerjee directed the MLAs, party leaders as well as the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police to help solve people's problems. She also inaugurated a number of health care projects for the district.


Mamata Banerjee

Blames BJP

Accusing the BJP of trying to disrupt peace in this erstwhile Maoist-affected area, she said: "In the last seven years, we have not let anybody disrupt peace in this region. We have not allowed the Maoists to enter this place. A few people are bringing in Maoists from neighbouring Jharkhand to create bloodbath in Jhargram."

"If you (people) have faith in me, I will ask you not to trust anybody else other than us (TMC). Till I am alive, I will never let anybody to act against the interests of the people. You are my family. I love the Adivasis (tribals)," she said at a public meeting here.

Ms. Banerjee claimed that during the Left Front government, around 300 people were killed in Jhargram in a year, while it was almost nil now.

Hitting out at the BJP, she said: "I do not create any division among people. I do not create division among the Hindus and Muslims, nor among the other communities. It's the ruling BJP at the Centre which does that. We are not with them (the BJP)."

"They (BJP) want the poor to face problem. They do not want them to get rice at ₹2 a kg, free education, job and health care," the TMC chief alleged.

Against the backdrop of the BJP making inroads in Jhargram district, the TMC had made some organisational changes last month at block level in the district.

Earlier in the day, Ms. Banerjee tweeted that her government has ensured all-round development for the tribal people in the State.

Odisha to reward people returning plastic bottles

Polythene ban notification likely by September 15

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

A high-level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary A.P. Padhi here on Thursday discussed modalities to implement the ban from October 2. Among other things, the possibility of rewarding people who returned plastic containers and empty packets of Orissa State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation after use was explored. "People will be paid on returning the OMFED packets and plastic bottles," Forest and Environment Additional Chief Secretary Suresh Mohapatra said after the meeting.

The government is likely to come up with a draft notification prohibiting use of plastic in the State by August-end following a directive issued by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to ban use of plastic and polythene containers from October 2.

"We will publish a draft notification banning use of plastic under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by August-end. We will solicit public opinion on the notification within 15 days. We hope to finalise the notification by September 15," said Mr. Mohapatra. The plastic ban will come into force from five corporations – Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Rourkela and Berhampur.

(With PTI inputs)

JU students lift sit-in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The Arts Faculty Students' Union on Thursday withdrew its sit-in outside Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Suranjan Das's chamber after the Dean of Arts said he was quitting from the admission process, a student leader said.

The AFSU lifted the nine-hour-long demonstration at 5 a..m following which the V-C, pro-V-C Pradip Ghosh and other senior university officials left for home, a teacher of Jadavpur University Teachers' Association said.

The students were protesting against the university's decision to put the history admission process on hold following the demand for review of history entrance test answer scripts of all applicants.

Man throws mother into river

Claims he did it due to financial woes; body yet to be traced

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The police arrested a man for throwing his ailing mother into a river in central Assam's Nagaon district late on Wednesday night.

The police said Pramod Agarwala pushed his mother Ratna Devi into the Kolong river from a wooden bridge near a girls' college. He had brought his mother from their rented house in the Haiborgaon Marwaripatty area on a rickshaw before pushing her into the river.

The man was taken into custody based on statements by some local people.

"We have registered a case against him. He has confessed," Nagaon Superintendent of Police Shankar Brata Raimedhi, told The Hindu.

Search to begin today

A team of the State Disaster Response Force searched for the body on Thursday. "The body could not be found. We will search again tomorrow [Friday]," Mr. Raimedhi said.

Mr. Agarwal is believed to have told the police that he had intended to jump into the river after pushing his mother. He blamed his desperation to financial difficulties.

Meanwhile, a woman in eastern Assam's Sivasagar district committed suicide, leaving behind a note saying she was unable to bear the torture inflicted on her by her sons and daughters-in-law.

On Thursday morning, the police recovered the half-burnt body of Anu Baruah from the backyard of her house in Dichial village. A suicide note beside her body said she took the extreme step because of constant abuse by her sons and their wives.

The four have been taken into custody while the body has been sent for an autopsy.

Criminal arrested after exchange of fire

Incident took place in Ganjam district

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

A hardcore criminal was arrested after an exchange of fire with the police at Aska Charimaili in Ganjam district in the early hours of Thursday. Identified as Kalu Biswal, a resident of Baliapalli village under the Kavisuryanagar police station limits, a revolver, three rounds of live ammunition and a bike were seized from him.

Biswal was injured in the leg during the exchange of fire and has been admitted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

According to police sources, several murder, extortion and attempt-to-murder cases were pending against him. He was also the prime accused in the murder of Biju Janata Dal activist Sania Bisoi in the Badagada police station area.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team had intercepted him at Aska Charimaili while he was riding a bike. "When he did not surrender and fired at the police team, security personnel retaliated," said Aska SDPO Subash Chandra Panda.

On Wednesday morning, another hardcore criminal, Dilip Das, was injured and arrested after an exchange of fire in the same district.

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IN BRIEF



GoAir set to connect Kannur and Dammam

NEW DELHI

GoAir is expected to launch its international operations and connect Kannur in Kerala with Dammam in Saudi Arabia, Tourism Minister K.J. Alphons said on Thursday. He added that two other airlines will provide international flights from Kannur, these include Jet Airways which will connect the coastal city of Kerala to Abu Dhabi and IndiGo which will provide flights to Doha. The DGCA has also granted permission for operations of wide-body aircraft at Calicut airport.

Rahul meet unlikely at Osmania University

HYDERABAD

Congress president Rahul Gandhi's proposed visit to the Osmania University (OU) to address students on 'Telangana, Youth and Unemployment' is unlikely as the authorities apparently are under pressure from the State government, which does not want him making a political statement from the university. The OU will neither deny nor give permission to the request made by some student groups and is likely to keep the application 'under consideration.'

TTD stops issuing darshan tickets

TIRUMALA

In connection with the six-day 'Astabandhana Balalaya Maha Samprokshanam' scheduled to commence with 'ankurarpanam' on Friday, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams stopped issuing darshan tickets from Thursday midnight. The slotted 'sarva darshan' token system was also dispensed with. No darshan tokens would be provided to the pilgrims reaching the temple town on foot after midnight.

Gates of 24 Kerala dams opened as water levels rise

Torrential rain pounds eastern parts of State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With torrential rain from a renewed monsoon system pounding eastern parts of Kerala, sluice gates in 24 dams were opened as water storage inched towards danger levels. The Idamalayar and Kakki dams were opened on Thursday. By evening, four shutters of the Idamalyar dam were opened and the discharge increased to 600 cusecs after the water level in the reservoir continued to rise.

A shutter of the Cheruthoni dam, part of the Idukki hydel project, was also opened in a trial run after 26 years as water levels crossed 2,398 ft. The Kerala State Electricity Board has issued the red alert saying the shutters of the reservoir could be opened early on Friday.

A State-level 24x7 cell, headed by Additional Chief Secretary P.H. Kurian, was set up at the State Secretariat to monitor the flood situation and coordinate emergency response. District-level cells headed by Collectors were also established.





Water reigns: (From top) A shutter of Cheruthoni dam, part of Idukki hydel project, being opened after a gap of 26 years, and, a view of the submerged Siva temple in Aluva after the release of water from the Idamalayar dam. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, AFP

Boat race postponed

In view of the flood situation, the government on Thursday decided to postpone the Nehru Trophy Boat Race scheduled to be held at Alappuzha on August 11.

More than 10,000 people have been shifted to 157 relief camps in the last two days, the government said.

Six members of a family were killed when flash floods following a series of landslips wreaked havoc across the hilly eastern region of Malappuram district on Thursday.

Faced with the prospect of a worsening floods, the government requested the services armed forces, the Coast Guard, the Military Engineering Service and the National Disaster Response Force (NDFR) for assistance in rescue and relief operations.

Major landslips occurred at Rajapuram and Adimali in Idukki and Thamarassery and Kuttiyadi in Kozhikode, with minor ones reported from Wayanad, Malappuram, Kannur and Palakkad.

Highest rainfall

The eastern parts of the State, including Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad and Idukki districts, registered the highest rainfall.

Following a request from the State government, two teams of the NDRF, comprising 100 men, reached Kozhikode by a special aircraft of the Air Force.

One of the teams was later airlifted from Kozhikode to Wayanad to rescue tribal families stranded by the floods. Moves were on to airlift rescue equipment for the Army units from Bengaluru to Kochi and Kozhikode, from where they would be transported by road.

(With PTI inputs)

Fake patients at medical college draw SC ire

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has imposed an "exemplary cost" of ₹2 crore on Telangana-based Mahavir Institute of Medical Sciences for carrying out "deception and fraud" by posing persons with no serious health concerns as patients to get approval to admit students.

A Bench of Justices S.A. Bobde and L. Nageswara Rao said the court took "serious note of the fraud played by the petitioner in projecting healthy persons as patients in their hospital for the purpose of showing compliance of the minimum standards".

The court referred to assessors' reports of the physical inspection, which showed that a number of patients were not even genuine. "There were others who were shown as patients with no serious health condition deserving an admission in the hospital... This was done by the petitioner with a view to get renewal for admission of students by showing that it was complying with the minimum standards. The petitioner is guilty of deception and fraud," the court observed in a seven-page order on August 6.

The amount has to be paid to the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Welfare Trust within four weeks. The court said it did not want to interfere with the decision of the Centre to deny approval to the medical college. The college had moved the Supreme Court against the Centre's decision to not allow it to admit 150 students to MBBS course for 2018-19 on the basis of an MCI recommendation.

A.P. multiplexes told to allow outside food

Beverages companies fined heftily

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

In a landmark verdict against violations of consumer rights at multiplexes and cinemas, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum in Vijayawada ordered the management of multiplexes to allow packaged water, soft drinks and food brought from outside by moviegoers into cinemas.

The State's Controller of Legal Metrology was asked to enforce the orders.

'Dual MRP'

A Forum Bench, comprising president Ravipalli Madhava Rao and members B. Srinivasu and R. Seetharamamma, on Thursday imposed a combined fine of ₹5 lakh each in five cases payable to the Consumers Welfare Fund by three different packaged drinking water and soft drinks companies for practising "dual MRP" (sale of the same product for varied MRPs in different markets).

The Bench was delivering a combined verdict in five similar complaints registered by five activists and the city's Consumer Guidance Society in May 2017 against dual MRP.

The three respondents were ordered to pay a combined fine of ₹5,000 to the complainant, and the multiplex was asked to return ₹ 130 with interest of 9% to the complainant, who was charged more because of dual MRP.

Mr. Rao wrote the verdict in Telugu for the first time in the history of the consumer forum. The Bench asked multiplexes to sell all products at the same or slightly enhanced price as in the open market, respecting the "right to choose" of the consumer, besides widely offering free drinking water on the premises.

12th suspect arrested in Gauri murder case

Kurne apprehended from Belagavi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU/UDUPI

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Thursday arrested Bharat Kurne from Belagavi in connection with the Gauri Lankesh murder case. Kurne, who was detained on Wednesday, is the 12th person to be arrested in the case.

The police suspect that Parushuram Waghmore, the alleged gunman, was given arms training at Kurne's farm.

He was produced before a jurisdictional court and was remanded in judicial custody for a day. The SIT application seeking his custody will be heard on Friday. Sources said Kurne, 37, ran a mobile canteen in Belagavi and had a three-acre farm in Khanapur, where he allegedly sheltered the prime accused in the Gauri murder conspiracy.

The SIT on Thursday picked up two more persons from Udupi district – Sandesh Shetty, 32, from Padebettu near Padubidri village, and Yuvaraj Kulal, 31, from Kanchinadka.

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IN BRIEF



Shanta misleading people, says Congress

SHIMLA

Kangra Member of Parliament Shanta Kumar is misleading voters in his constituency with the false promise of setting up a cement plant in Chamba, alleged Himachal Congress president Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Mr. Kumar is showing illusory dreams to the people just as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had done in 2014, Mr. Sukhu alleged. PTI

Woman kills self after being raped in M.P.

BETUL

An 18-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide after being raped in Bothia village in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Thursday. She consumed poison after narrating her ordeal to her mother. She died at a hospital on Wednesday evening. PTI

Two killed, four hurt in road mishaps

DHOLPUR (RAJASTHAN)

Two persons were killed and four were injured in two separate road accidents in the district on Thursday. The deceased were identified as Manpal (26) and Keshav Singh (40). Both were on their way to Madhya Pradesh as part of the Kanwar Yatra.. In another similar mishap, around midnight, four Kanwariyas were injured after being hit by a vehicle. PTI

28 cows die at a shelter in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

At least twenty-eight cows have died in two days due to suspected food poisoning at a cow shelter in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district. Nearly 300 cows got sick due to suspected food poisoning and 28 cows have died in the last two days, the 'gaushala' president said. Joint Director of the State's Animal Husbandry Department, Madanlal, said that a team of veterinary doctors is monitoring the situation. PTI

Vedanta gets a breather from National Green Tribunal

Given access to administrative section at the Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

In an interim relief, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday granted permission to Vedanta to access the administrative section at the Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi.

However, the tribunal stated that the production unit will continue to remain shut.

Report sought

A bench headed by NGT chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel further directed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to file a report based on an analysis of the baseline pollution data of the Sipcot industrial area in Tuticorin to ascertain the level of pollution attributable to the Sterlite plant. The TNPCB has been asked to submit the data within 10 days.

Prevent leakages

The board informed the tribunal that a committee that also included a representative of Vedanta had been set up to maintain the plant and to prevent leakages and other environmental damages.

Dismissing the TNPCB's arguments against the permission granted to access the administrative unit, the bench said, "The district magistrate will ensure that the appellants do not access the production unit. We are concerned with the environment. No environmental damage can be caused by access to the administrative section (sic)."

T.N.'s plea rejected

The green panel, however, rejected the Tamil Nadu government's contention that Vedanta's plea, challenging the closure order issued, was not maintainable before the tribunal.

During the hearing, senior advocate C. Aryama Sundaram, appearing for Vedanta, contended that no prior notices were issued to the plant before the closure order.

Vedanta had, in July, moved the green tribunal challenging the State government's May order closing down the plant.

Alleging environmental damage due to the operation of the plant, residents of the town staged a major protest in May this year, prompting the TNPCB to issue the closure order.

Silicosis victims in Rajasthan demand relief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Mine workers in Rajasthan suffering from silicosis as an occupational disease have demanded steps for relief, while pointing out that they were not getting silicosis confirmation certificates from the Pneumoconiosis Board mandatory for getting compensation from the State government.

About 1,000 silicosis patients from the State's nine districts gathered at a public hearing here on Wednesday and narrated their experiences while trying to obtain certificates for the non-curable disease. The mine workers said they should be included in the national and State lists of disabilities and given disability pension, besides the health insurance benefits under the Bhamashah Scheme.

According to the Suchna Evum Rozgar Ka Adhikar Abhiyan, which organised the public hearing, more than 15,000 labourers working in various mines across 16 districts in State have been diagnosed with silicosis. Over 200 of them have lost their lives during the last three years.

Basic statutory rights

Social activist Aruna Roy said the infrastructure development in the State was being carried out at the cost of people's lives. The silicosis patients, who were losing their lives in the work, were struggling to get their basic statutory rights, she said.

The State government at present offers the relief of ₹1 lakh to the people diagnosed with silicosis and ₹3 lakh to the next of kin of those who succumb to the disease. The Pneumoconiosis Board issues certificates to the patients, making them eligible for the government's financial assistance.

Kathua case: Crime Branch for security to eyewitnesses

'Pressure to change their statements'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Crime Branch, investigating the Kathua rape-and-murder of a minor Bakerwal girl, on Thursday sought police protection for two eyewitnesses. The CPI(M) has also urged security for eyewitnesses in the case.

Intimidation charge

An official said the Crime Branch has sought an FIR into the intimidation allegations levelled by two eyewitnesses in the case. The eyewitnesses have told the Crime Branch that "friends and relatives of the accused were putting pressure to change their statements".

A district and sessions court in Pathankot, Punjab, is hearing the case.

Four cops held

The eight-year-old victim's body was found in January this year. Eight people, including four policemen, have been arrested in the case.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami has expressed concern over the alleged torture of key eyewitness Talib Hussain, a lawyer by profession, in the case. He urged the government to ensure safety and security of Mr. Hussain.

Nomad community

The relatives of Mr. Hussain have also filed a petition in the Supreme Court alleging that he was being targeted for championing the cause of the nomad community and received life-threatening injuries during torture in custody.

"It is unfortunate that such incidents are happening, where a whistleblower is becoming a victim because some unscrupulous elements are hell bent on hushing up the rape case of a minor innocent girl," said Mr. Tarigami.

Hopes revive for Jaipur man's release from Pak. jail

Labourer Gajendra went missing in 1982

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Hopes for the release of a labourer from Jaipur's Samod area, reportedly languishing in a Pakistani jail for the past 36 years, have revived with Minister of State for External Affairs V.K. Singh stating that he will walk free on August 13.

The labourer, Gajendra Sharma, who went missing from here in 1982, was traced to Lahore's Kot Lakhpat Jail in May this year. How the poor man disappeared, crossed the India-Pakistan border and landed in jail still remains a mystery.

Jaipur MP Ramcharan Bohra, who along with Gajendra's wife and son and the local BJP leaders met Gen. (retd.) Singh at the Lok Sabha Secretariat in New Delhi on Thursday, said Gajendra would be set free on the eve of Pakistan's Independence Day.

The Minister assured the delegation that the detainee would be released on August 13.

Mr. Bohra said that Gajendra, now 68, was sentenced to two months in prison, but languished in the Pakistani jail for a long period because he did not have consular access over the years.

Verification documents

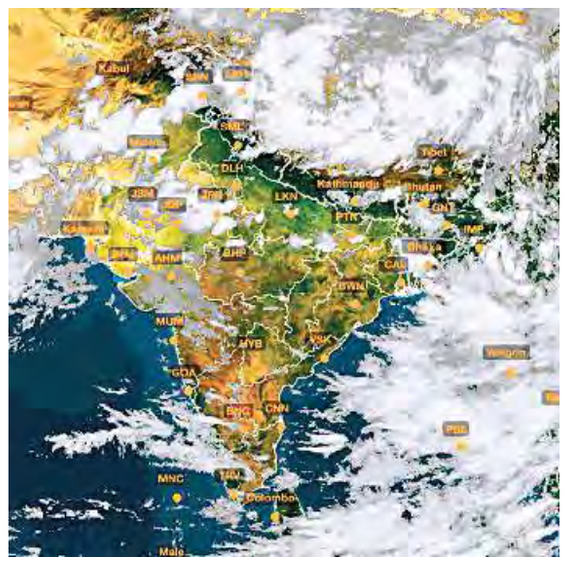
Gajendra's wife Makhni Devi had lost all hope of seeing her husband alive, but the family was informed by the police on May 4 that he was in the neighbouring country.

The Superintendent of Police (Jaipur Rural) had received documents for verification of Gajendra's nationality.

The documents confirmed Gajendra's presence in the Lahore jail. The police and intelligence agencies traced his family, which had shifted from Samod's Maharkalan village to Brahampuri in Jaipur city, and informed them about the official communication for confirming his citizenship.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rain is likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, west Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, coastal & south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	35.4	26.6	Kozhikode	6	28.4	24.2
Ahmedabad	15.5	33.5	24.0	Kurnool	–	34.4	25.2
Aizwal	29	29.8	12.9	Lucknow	–	33.5	26.6
Allahabad	–	34.5	27.0	Madurai	0.4	34.9	24.6
Bengaluru	–	28.2	20.2	Mangaluru	2.6	28.9	23.5
Bhopal	17	29.3	23.2	Mumbai	2	28.6	26.5
Bhubaneswar	–	33.3	25.9	Mysuru	–	28.7	19.4
Chandigarh	8	34.3	25.1	New Delhi	0.6	36.5	27.6
Chennai	9.3	37.1	24.8	Patna	–	34.4	26.5
Coimbatore	4	29.6	22.0	Port Blair	8.6	29.3	25.2
Dehradun	10.6	33.1	23.2	Puducherry	–	36.2	22.6
Gangtok	2	24.3	18.0	Pune	1.5	27.8	21.9
Goa	0.9	30.8	26.2	Raipur	24.6	28.5	27.8
Guwahati	1	35.6	25.6	Ranchi	6.5	28.6	22.7
Hubballi	–	26.0	21.0	Shillong	–	25.0	17.2
Hyderabad	1.6	33.2	22.9	Shimla	0.3	22.7	16.4
Imphal	–	30.8	22.0	Srinagar	1.7	29.8	18.4
Jaipur	–	35.0	25.9	Trivandrum	56.1	30.5	22.3
Kochi	10.6	29.6	23.8	Tiruchi	–	37.1	26.6
Kohima	48	27.0	18.7	Vijayawada	1.8	34.3	24.8
Kolkata	2.5	32.6	26.9	Visakhapatnam	–	32.0	27.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	52	.50	41	44	.....–	....
Bengaluru	..8	.32	91	50	.118	....
Chennai	11	.32	46	58	.....–	....
Delhi	23	.57	48	..100	.126	....
Hyderabad	..4	105	18	22	...43	....
Kolkata	..2	.41	67	28	...39	....
Lucknow	16	.47	29	..110	.....–	....
Mumbai	15	.39	63	20	...50	....
Pune	34	.13	51	35	...31	....
Vishakhapatnam	12	.47	36	73	.103	....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 193 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Khanna, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

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

SO_2: 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_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

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IN BRIEF



Jinnah House: Wadia can replace petitioner

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has allowed Wadia Group chairman Nusli Neville Wadia to replace his late mother Dina Wadia as a petitioner in a case she filed to claim the ownership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's house here. PTI

Man sentenced to life for raping minor in M.P.

DATIA

A court in Madhya Pradesh sentenced Motilal Ahirwar, 25, to life imprisonment for raping a six-year-old minor girl. The trial was completed in three working days. PTI

AAP won't join Oppn. alliance: Kejriwal

JIND (RAJASTHAN)

AAP leader and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said his party will not join the proposed Opposition alliance for the 2019 elections. He said the parties which are joining the alliance have had no role in the country's development.

'You are my last hope,' Manipur wrestler tells PM

GUWAHATI

Manipur wrestler K. Sanjita Chanu, who won a gold medal in the 2018 Commonwealth Games, has written to the Prime Minister seeking his intervention in the doping case against her.



'Honoured' supervisor of a tainted home

Months after shelter home was derecognised, Girija Tripathi continued to participate in govt. functions

OMAR RASHID
DEORIA





Under scanner: Rescued girls at a Deoria court to record their statement. Police on bandobast duty at the shelter. ▪ RAJEEV BHATT

Not only did the district police continue to send new inmates, including minor girls, to the shelter home in Deoria after it was derecognised for financial irregularities, but its supervisor Girija Tripathi continued to participate in official functions – even after the government's order to shut down the institution.

The shelter home has come now under the scanner for alleged sexual exploitation of its inmates.

On February 9, eight months after her shelter home was derecognised following financial irregularities detected by the CBI, Tripathi was invited by the administration to find couples for a mass marriage event organised by the Social Welfare Department of the U.P. government.

Chosen one

Sources said her NGO was chosen out of the five shortlisted. Over 50 couples got married at the event, which was attended by U.P. Cabinet Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, newspaper reports of that date show.

ADM (Finance) S. R. Gupta confirmed that Tripathi did participate in mass marriage events of the government as late as in 2018.

While the senior official failed to explain why the NGO was picked, he clarified that "no funds were transferred" to the organisation for being one of the organisers. Now under arrest for alleged sexual exploitation of inmates in her shelter home, Tripathi enjoyed considerable goodwill and clout among the local administration and the police, who honoured her on many occasions.

According to a local source, the previous district police chief had appointed her as the main coordinator of a police project under which compromise meetings were held to sort out differences between quarrelling spouses every weekend at the police lines.

Tripathi registered her NGO in the 1990s when she was living in a small town called Bhatni in Deoria district. The family later shifted to Deoria where they started the shelter home, gradually building contacts with officials and people of influence to win projects.

According to the State government, the shelter home got recognition in 2009-10 under the BSP rule. After the Samajwadi Party came to power, the NGO also acquired the status of a child and women protection home, adoption home and correction home, said Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Child and Women Welfare Minister.

According to the Uttar Pradesh Child and Women Welfare Department, the shelter home received a grant of around ₹90 lakh from 2012 to 2017 under the ICPS.

Over time, Tripathi and her husband even set up an old age home in neighbouring Gorakhpur. After running it from a rented place in Basharatpur belonging to a local contractor, they eventually shifted to a well-furnished building in Chanakyapuri Colony.

Criminals in politics leave SC anguished

How can a murder or rape accused become a legislator, asks judge

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI



Petitions barring criminals from entering politics are being heard in the top court.

"Something has to be done to keep criminals at bay and prevent them from contesting elections," Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra said on Thursday, voicing the Supreme Court's anguish at the helplessness of society to prevent criminalisation of politics at the very entry-point.

The Chief Justice is presiding over a five-judge Constitution Bench hearing petitions to bar politicians facing charges of heinous crimes, like murder, rape and kidnapping, from contesting elections and transforming themselves into parliamentarians and legislators.

But at the same time, the Supreme Court said it could not legislate for Parliament. "The court declares the law, the Parliament makes the law," Justice Rohinton Nariman observed.

The court is mulling over what it said was its "genuine concern about criminal politics". Under the Representation of the People Act, only convicted lawmakers are disqualified, not those accused.

"Can we make such a law disqualifying persons against whom charges of heinous crimes have been framed by courts of law or should we tell Parliament that by not laying down such a law, you are really giving criminals encouragement and hope? This is the question bothering us," Chief Justice Misra told the petitioners, including advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, represented by senior advocates Dinesh Dwivedi, Siddharth Luthra and Gopal Sankaranarayanan.

Fast track courts

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal submitted that fast track courts to try accused politicians were "the only solution". Mr. Venugopal said charges in such cases are kept pending for long as witnesses don't testify as the Whistleblowers Protection Act, which protects informers, is too weak to protect them or their families from repercussions.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud asked how a murder and rape accused could become a legislator. To this, the Attorney-Generalreplied that a person is presumed innocent until he is proven guilty.

Centre asks States/UTs to inspect child shelters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In the aftermath of cases of sexual abuse at shelter homes in Muzaffarpur and Deoria, the Centre has asked State governments to inspect all child care institutes and submit a report by September 15, Union Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi told Parliament on Thursday.

The Ministry also said that in a consultation with the States and the Union Territories carried out earlier this year, it found that only 7,109 shelters for children across the country were registered under the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015.

Ms. Gandhi said that the Centre had directed the States and the UTs in February to shut down all institutions not registered under law, and shift the children to appropriate facilities.

Onus on States

Under the JJ Act, registration of all child care institutions, regardless of whether or not they are funded by the government, is mandatory. The Act puts the onus of registration on the State/ UT government.

CBI examining calls in molestation case

34 girls were abused in Muzaffarpur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation's forensic team is mapping the mobile phone calls made by those suspected of having raped 34 girl inmates at the Muzaffarpur shelter home in Bihar.

"The forensic team is also examining the evidence lifted by the State police. It will visit the scene of crime to collect more evidence," said an official. The agency plans to seek custodial interrogation of the 10 arrested accused.

The abuse at the Balika Grih came to light following a social audit conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences of shelter homes across the State.

Prabhu orders probe after 'racist behaviour' by BA crew

Bureaucrat claimed family was offloaded at London airport

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Minister for Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu has asked the aviation regulator DGCA to inquire into a complaint by a bureaucrat against British Airways for "unprofessional, rude and racist behaviour" after he and his family were offloaded from a flight from London to Berlin last month because their baby was crying.

"I have directed the DGCA to obtain detailed report from British Airways on the issue," Mr. Prabhu tweeted.

The airline, in a statement, said that it was investigating the matter.

Internal probe

"It is a safety requirement for all airlines that passengers are seated and have their seatbelt fastened for take-off. We are investigating the complaint," according to a statement from British Airways.

On August 3, A.P. Pathak, wrote a letter to Mr. Prabhu seeking stringent action against the airline for "racist" conduct.

The complainant, a Joint-Secretary with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, recounted the incident of July 23 and wrote that his son, seated separately, was crying during take-off from London.

Mr. Pathak wrote that the crew member called security to deboard him and his family along with another family, which offered biscuits to his son.

He also stated that the airline neither accommodated him in an alternate flight nor arranged for his stay.

Ministry rejects low score on green health

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry has dismissed as "arbitrary" and "unscientific" a 2017 World Economic Forum-ranking that placed India at the bottom in terms of environment performance.

The January report ranked India 177 out of 180 countries on the Environmental Performance Index 2018. India slipped 36 points from 141 in the 2016 report, prepared by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the WEF.

India's low ranking – 177 among 180 countries – was linked to poor performance in the environment health policy and deaths due to air pollution categories.

However, in a reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mahesh Sharma attributed India's decline to a change in parameters between two editions of the report.

Maoists kill postmaster in Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALKANGIRI

A postmaster in Odisha's Malkangiri district was abducted and killed allegedly by Maoists on suspicion that he was a police informer, Malkangiri SP Jagmohan Meena said on Thursday.

The body of Narayan Palashi, 45, with gunshot wounds, was found by his family members and villagers on the village outskirts.

'Coast Guard failed to set up air stations'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) has raised serious questions about the efficiency of the Coast Guard as it is "plagued with deficiencies of operational infrastructure."

The Coast Guard Development Plan 2012-17 mulls setting up of two Coast Guard Air Stations (CGASs) and seven Coast Guard Air Enclaves (CGAEs) for carrying out operations effectively.

"At the end of the plan period, despite government sanction, the force could not commission these air units even after a lapse of 51-95 months from the date of sanction.

"Failure to establish the CGASs and CGAEs is indicative of the fact that ground realities and local constraints had not been taken into account by Coast Guard...," the CAG said in a report tabled in Parliament this week.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

A welcome retreat

The Centre wisely withdraws the FRDI Bill; but the issues it sought to address remain

In just under 12 months since its introduction in Parliament, the Centre has quietly withdrawn the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017. The decision to seek the Lok Sabha's approval to withdraw the legislation this week is a clear acknowledgement by the government that it had underestimated the extent and intensity of public opposition to the proposed law. One provision in the Bill had, in particular, generated the greatest debate and attracted the fiercest criticism and ultimately proved to be its very undoing: the "bail-in" clause. That banks, by the very nature of their business, are essentially dependent on the funds lent to them by depositors to serve as the pool of lendable resources from which they provide credit to borrowers is well known and requires no elaboration. So when a depositor apprehends that her hard-earned savings placed in a bank may be at risk from a law that forces her to partake in the pain of financial losses in case her bank is forced into resolution on account of distress, she will naturally fear such a legislation. The government did make strenuous efforts to reassure the public, explaining the rationale for the Bill as well as the built-in "safeguards" relating to the bail-in provision. However, its exertions made little headway. Union Minister Piyush Goyal finally informed the joint parliamentary committee that was reviewing the Bill that a "resolution of these issues would require a comprehensive examination and reconsideration", and that therefore the government deemed it "appropriate" that the Bill be withdrawn.

However, the need for a specialised dispensation to cope with large financial corporations on the verge of going bust cannot be overstated, especially given the contagion risk that a bank failure can pose to overall financial stability. The withdrawal of the FRDI Bill should therefore be used as an opportunity by policymakers to reappraise the existing framework for resolving bankruptcy scenarios among financial entities. While such a review ought to include an evaluation of the progress made by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in addressing the crucial issue of debt resolution in the banking sector, it must also look at ways to strengthen the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation. Set up in the early 1960s in the aftermath of the collapse of two banks, the DICGC, which guarantees repayment of bank deposits up to ₹1 lakh in case a bank is liquidated, has not reviewed the amount under guarantee since 1993. This anomaly must be addressed, especially at a time when several state-run public sector banks have been roiled by a series of frauds and high levels of bad loans. Any measure that helps prevent further erosion of public faith in the beleaguered banking system would undoubtedly be very welcome.

Kohli's moment

Can he build on a good start to the English summer to establish greatness in Test cricket?

The latest ICC Test rankings with Virat Kohli as the top batsman provide a curiously apt backdrop to the Indian cricket team's current tour of England. His ranking was enabled by his 200 runs, 149 in the first innings and 51 in the second, in the first Test in Birmingham which almost took India to victory, but in the event spared the tourists the embarrassment of a crushing defeat. Together, the two overlapping statistics – Kohli's success in taking command of India's batting in both innings, even if it fell short of getting the team past the English total, and his ascent up the ICC rankings – frame the juncture the India team is at. Kohli has comfortably asserted his dominance in the abbreviated formats of the game, both One-Day Internationals and Twenty20s. Yet when it came to Tests, despite his 53-plus average, there had always been a debate over the critical distance he needed to traverse from being a very good batsman to being counted among the greats of the modern era. His dismal showing during India's previous tour of England, in 2014, with just 134 runs from 10 innings, could not be ignored. Kohli is conscious of the need to prove himself in away tours. Once he had spoken of his dream to score a Test ton against Dale Steyn and company in South Africa, and went on to promptly do so in 2013. England presents an especially important challenge to him. For one, it is a personal point to prove against James Anderson, who had in 2014 dismissed Kohli on four occasions. He has clearly learnt to play Anderson, and in Birmingham, his line around the off-stump was either countered with a straight bat and soft hands or left alone.

More importantly, with England having revived the tradition of five-Test series, a victorious English summer has become a measure of a team's ability to count itself among the best. In the first Test, Kohli's innings were worthy of being preserved as textbook manuals on batting against crafty fast bowlers. Equally, his leadership qualities were revealed by his skill in shielding the tail as he piled up his 149 in the first innings. The ICC top ranking will likely remain his for some time. With 934 points, Kohli is just marginally ahead of Steve Smith (929), but the Australian is currently serving a one-year ban for ball-tampering and holds no threat; the next two potential challengers, England's Joe Root (865) and New Zealander Kane Williamson (847), hover far behind. But the remaining four Tests, including the Lord's fixture that began on Thursday, will determine the Indian skipper's capacity to seize the moment. Kohli has clearly reclaimed his mojo in England, but in a team sport, he will also have to draw out the best from his whole pack to claim greatness.

Perils of historical amnesia

Critics of Article 35A forget that it was introduced to bring J&K closer to India, not tear it further apart



SANDEEP BHARDWAJ



AFP

The irony of today's India is that while our politics is looking towards our history more often than ever before, we are also becoming comfortable with its constant manipulation. The controversial Article 35A of the Constitution, which is currently being challenged in the Supreme Court, is a case in point. Its critics have argued that the Article affords Jammu and Kashmir undue powers, particularly by preventing non-State residents to own land in the State. The media has largely gone along with this explanation, often portraying the debate as a question of "special status" of Jammu and Kashmir and the Article as some sort of unusual concession to the State. In fact, the fundamental purpose of Article 35A, when it was introduced in 1954 as part of a Presidential Order, was the exact opposite: instead of giving the state a "special status", it was designed to take autonomy away from it.

A larger package

The Article was introduced in May 1954 as part of a larger Presidential Order package, which made several additions to the Constitution (not just Article 35A). The overall gist of this Order was to give the Government of India enormously more powers over the State than it had enjoyed before. For the first time, India's fundamental rights and directive principles were applicable to Jammu and Kashmir and the State's finances were integrated with India. Importantly, the Order also extended the Indian Supreme Court's jurisdiction over certain aspects of Jammu and Kashmir.

Just as crucially, the Order had come about only after the Jammu and Kashmir government had agreed to it and passed a similar legislation in its own Constituent Assembly, making it clear that these powers were Jammu and Kashmir's to give, not India's to take. In fact, at the time of its introduction, the Order was celebrated in India as a great step towards bringing Jammu and Kashmir closer into the Union of India. Even the Hindu right-wing leaders had hailed it as a "commendable step". No eyebrows were raised over the minor issue of Article 35A, which made up a very small component of the Order.

Of course, the larger problem is that after decades of confusion and purposeful obfuscation, we tend to forget that initially Kashmir was conceived as a State with "special status". The controversial Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1947 which brought the State into the Union of India gave New Delhi control only over Kashmir's defence, foreign policy and communications. On all other matters, the State government retained powers. On the spectrum of autonomy, Jammu and Kashmir lay somewhere between, say, Bihar, a fully integrated State of India, and Bhutan, which enjoyed limited sovereignty under the protection of India. India's tenuous grasp over Jammu and Kashmir was further complicated by New Delhi's international commitment to hold a plebiscite in the State to decide its eventual fate.

It is because of this weak India-Kashmir constitutional link that Sheikh Abdullah became "Prime Minister" of Kashmir; the State had its own Constituent Assembly and flag; there were customs checks between India and the State; the Supreme Court did not have jurisdiction over key issues in the State; Kashmir militia was constituted as a separate force; and Srinagar tried to send its own trade commissioners to foreign countries. With the coming into effect of the Indian Constitution in January 1950, New Delhi's powers over Jammu and Kashmir were defined more clearly through a Presidential Order (a predecessor of 1954 Order). However, just in the areas of defence, foreign affairs and communications was Jammu and Kashmir put on the same footing as the rest of India. On issues of commerce, audit, judiciary, elections and finance, there were considerable modifications. India's fundamental rights and directive principles were not applicable in Jammu and Kashmir at all.

The Delhi Agreement

Only in 1952, after the international clamour for an immediate plebiscite had somewhat subsided, did Jawaharlal Nehru invite Abdullah to discuss how India and Jammu and Kashmir could be more closely integrated. The result was the 1952 Delhi Agreement which, contrary to popular belief, still fell short of the 1954 Presidential Order. For instance, the 1952 agreement did not finalise financial integration and required the fundamental rights and citizenship to be granted to the State's residents via the State Legislature.

Before the Delhi Agreement could be implemented, the situation was altered radically because of three factors. First, any plans for an immediate Plebiscite were abandoned in 1954, which strengthened New Delhi's hand. Second, in 1953, Nehru faced a nationwide campaign from the Hindu right-wing demanding greater integration of Kashmir. And finally, and perhaps most importantly, in August 1953, Abdullah was arrested and replaced by Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed, who was far more amenable to integration with India.

So, in January 1954, New Delhi negotiated a new agreement with Bakshi, which was passed by the Kashmir Constituent Assembly in February, and eventually introduced through Presidential Order in May. However, it still left the State with enormous autonomy. Foremost, all "residuary powers" rested with the State legislature. The State government could detain people who did not enjoy the right to appeal to the Supreme Court. It also retained its controversial land reforms measures and the final authority over any alteration of the State's boundaries. Among its lesser known provisions at the time was Article 35A, a holdover from the colonial era.

It took another 70 years of successive governments steadily chipping away at Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy to bring it to today, when the only meaningful "special status" that it enjoys is Article 35A. Almost all of State's other autonomous powers have been subsumed by New Delhi. Today's debate over the Article should be seen as part of this larger decades-long process of the State's integration into India, sometimes through legal means and sometimes through outright fiat.

Vestige of a broken promise

To be sure, the whole project of federal nation-building requires constant negotiation between the nation state and its components. Arguably, India's efforts to bring Kashmir into its fold can be told as part of such a story. However, such efforts need to have an underpinning of at least some kind transparent democratic process. Should Article 35A be removed, it must be removed as an expression of the will of the people, through a political process which includes the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the discussion. Or, in the very least, it has to be remembered that the Article is not some special concession to Jammu and Kashmir but the last vestige of a broken promise that India had made to it decades ago.

Sandeep Bhardwaj is a research associate with the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

Questions of faith at Ayodhya

We need to carefully understand the issues before the Supreme Court



SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY



AFP

This refers to A. Faizur Rahman's article "The essentiality of mosques" (*The Hindu*, August 7, 2018). He says that the Supreme Court needs to reconsider the Ismail Faruqui verdict, in which it stated that a mosque is not essential to Islam. Instead of arguing his case, Mr. Rahman blandly states: "A reading of the Koran and authentic traditions of the Prophet make clear the significance of the mosque in Islam." This is, at best, a circular argument and, at worst, a terrible obfuscation.

Misreading the Constitution

It is also a misreading of the Constitution of India to state, as the writer does, that Articles 25 and 26 guarantee Muslims an unfettered fundamental right to pray in a mosque. Fundamental rights in our Constitution are not absolute, and are subject to reasonable restrictions of morality, health, and public order.

It is now established that Babri Masjid was a structure constructed by invaders, and after demolishing a pre-existing temple. The Supreme Court in 1994 had directed the Allahabad High Court to verify this by scientific methods.

The High Court then asked the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to determine and verify this fact. A team of two top archaeologists, B.B. Lal and K.K. Mohammed, in 2002 deployed the most scientific tools and unanimously concluded that there was indeed an extensive temple complex in ruins under the site where the Babri Masjid structure had stood.

The High Court accepted this finding and relied on the same in depth in its 2010 judgment of 1,000 printed pages, now available in three bound volumes. It is this judgment that the Sunni Waqf Board has appealed against in the Supreme Court.

RESPONSE

Before the Supreme Court today are two sets of petitions being considered. The first is a civil suit appeal against the High Court judgment, viz., on questions of who the "disputed" Ayodhya site belongs to. The second is my writ petition seeking enforcement of my fundamental right to pray at the site where Rama was born. Many devout Hindus believe that Bhagwan Sri Rama was born at a particular spot in Ayodhya, the then capital of a flourishing kingdom of the Suryavamsa dynasty.

Imam-e-Hind

Rama is venerated as *Maryada Purushottam* and worshipped by Hindus in the north as an avatar of Vishnu, while some Tamil saints known as Nayanmars and Alwars composed many hymns and songs dedicated to his divinity. In that sense, Sri Rama was the first truly national king of India, supra region, supra varna or jati. That is why the poet Mohammed Iqbal called him 'Imam-e-Hind'.

The exact spot of the palace where Rama was born has been – and remains – firmly identified in the Hindu mind and is held sacred. This is the very area where stood, from 1528 till December 6, 1992, a structure that came to be known as Babri Masjid, put up by Babar's commander, Mir Baqi.

Posed as it is, my petition should prevail in the Supreme Court since my fundamental right is a superior right in law compared to the ordinary right to property as claimed by the Sunni Waqf Board.

It is thus to forestall the superior right of worship at Ram Janmabhoomi from prevailing, and to buy time till the next general elections, that the lawyers engaged by the Sunni Waqf Board have introduced this new prayer (which was not raised at the High Court level), of setting up a larger Constitution Bench to reconsider the 1994 five-judge Constitution Bench judgment that a mosque is not "an essential part" of the Islamic religion. This is also the view of prominent Islamic scholars.

To argue otherwise, as Mr. Rahman does, is nothing but a part of a legal strategy to obfuscate and delay the apex court judgment.

Subramanian Swamy is a member of the Rajya Sabha and a former Union Law Minister

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.

After Karunanidhi

It is not true that there is a political vacuum in Tamil Nadu following the demise of J. Jayalalithaa and M. Karunanidhi ("M. Karunanidhi, 94", August 8). The AIADMK is prone to disintegrate as it has survived only because of the strength of its personalities, whether MGR or Jayalalithaa. The present leaders have no mass base of their own; their strength comes from the support for previous leaders and their policies. However, this is not the case with the DMK, which is a cadre-based party. DMK working president M.K. Stalin was groomed by Karunanidhi and had to rise through the ranks. His public life has been one of hardship. The charge of dynasty cannot be applied to him.
A bipolar polity looks likely to continue in the State, with one force comprising the DMK, Congress and perhaps the Makkal Needhi Maiam, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, the Left parties and others, and the other force comprising the AIADMK, the BJP, perhaps Rajinikanth's yet-to-be-launched political party and others. It looks like T.T.V. Dhinakaran has to join one of these two broad political formations to contest elections, despite pulling crowds on his own.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Kanyakumari

Politics after death

It is unfortunate that a five-time Chief Minister's family had to struggle so much after his death over the place of his burial ("After HC drama, Karunanidhi laid to rest on Marina", August 9). The AIADMK government should have shown magnanimity in allowing the DMK leader to be buried near his mentor, C.N. Annadurai. The Madras High Court verdict was thankfully a great relief. Had the court not allowed this, there would have been a huge law and order problem. It would not be hyperbole to say that the court's verdict saved the lives of many in Tamil Nadu.

S. NALLASIVAN,
Tirunelveli

While the AIADMK government was attempting to insult Karunanidhi, it was nice to see the Central government recognising the contributions of the DMK patriarch. The government accorded him a state funeral, and both the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister flew down to pay their homage. The AIADMK government's behaviour deserves condemnation, while the Central government deserves appreciation.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

Karunanidhi had himself said that maintaining Annadurai's memorial on the Marina was becoming difficult given its proximity to the sea ("Karunanidhi turned down demand for Marina memorial for Kamaraj", August 9). If this trend of constructing memorials on the beach continues, we will only have memorials of Chief Ministers on the beach many decades from now. It is time to put a stop to this practice and maintain the beauty of the Marina. There should be an exclusive place earmarked for memorials somewhere in the city, not on its shores.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

While DMK got its way, one cannot fault the State government as it encountered petitions seeking to stop the Marina from being converted into a cemetery or memorial.

N.J. RAVI CHANDER,
Bengaluru

Lateral entry debate

Lateral entry of experts into the bureaucracy is routine in countries like the U.S., Germany and New Zealand ("Reforming the civil services", August 9). India definitely needs some field experts to formulate its policies and take key decisions. Domain experts like Manmohan Singh and Montek Singh Ahluwalia were after all brought in through lateral entry.

TALA B. RAGUNATH,
Thanjavur

The objective is to bring greater proficiency in administration to manage new challenges. However, this policy needs to be impartial, and the appointment decisions should be taken independently. It should not become a tool for the government to appoint only those it wants in administration. A bureaucrat encounters many administrative hurdles and knows how to solve them. Will lateral entry candidates with no experience in administration be able to perform effectively?

GAGAN PRATAP SINGH,
Noida

The problem of begging

Begging is a social problem, so the court's decision is right ("Delhi High Court decriminalises begging in the national capital", August 9). Poverty, unemployment, disability, etc. are responsible for people begging. The government, civil society, the police and citizens have to work together to solve this problem.

CHITRAKANT SINGH,
Greater Noida

Cleaning the Ganga

No amount of money can clean the Ganga ("To help clean the Ganga, visit an ATM", August 9). Crores have already been spent on the Clean Ganga Project but the river remains as polluted as ever. What is required is the will to clean the river and tough decisions by the government. We must stop the inflow of pollutants from industries, households and hotels into the river. No bodies should be dumped into the river, and pujas on the banks of the Ganga should be reduced or stopped.

G. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

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YES, NO, IT'S COMPLICATED

Does the anti-trafficking Bill address trafficking?

YES



SAMPURNA BEHURA
is Director, Programmes, Bachpan Bachao Andolan

The Bill goes beyond criminalisation; it tries to combat the organised nature of trafficking

India took a giant step towards the protection of its women and children when the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act was passed by the Lok Sabha in 2013. Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was substituted with Sections 370 and 370A, which defined trafficking and laid out the punishment for it. However, mere criminalisation of trafficking is not enough – several laws have not been implemented in letter and spirit in the absence of a comprehensive legislative framework. In the case of trafficking, data show that despite the 2013 law, there has been an increase in the number of victims of human trafficking. It is to tackle this menace that the comprehensive Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, was passed. Instead of mere criminalisation, the Bill seeks to systematically combat the organised nature of trafficking.

Multipronged approach

The Bill ties together the approaches of prevention, rescue and rehabilitation to create a robust policy framework against trafficking. It places at its core the rights and welfare of victims of human trafficking. There are aggravated forms of trafficking which have been introduced, such as trafficking for the purpose of begging, or bearing a child, or for the purpose of marriage or under the pretext of marriage by administering narcotic drugs, hormones, or chemical substances for the purposes of early sexual maturity, and so on. Under the Bill, prosecution under these offences will be made timely and efficient by special public prosecutors.

The Bill provides protection to witnesses. It also seeks to maintain the confidentiality of victims by recording their statements through video conferencing and by in camera proceedings. It states that there will be time-bound trials and repatriation of victims.

A rehabilitation fund has been introduced for the first time. This will be used for the physical, psychological and social well-being of victims. The Bill seeks to build the capacity of victims by providing capital, infrastructure, education and skill development to empower them to access justice and to prevent further trafficking.

For the first time, the National Anti-Trafficking Bureau will coordinate with authorities in foreign countries and international organisations, and facilitate inter-State and trans-border transfer of evidence and materials. It will strengthen the intelligence apparatus to improve the collection, collation and dissemination of operational intelligence. The Bureau will also coordinate actions and enforcement by various bodies or authorities established under this Bill. There will be State and District Anti-Trafficking Committees which will arrange for appropriate training and sensitisation of functionaries of all personnel.

It is crucial to note that trafficking is an organised crime. In order to break the organised nexus, at the national and international levels, the Bill proposes attachment and forfeiture of property and to remit the proceeds of crime in the rehabilitation fund. It will also freeze bank accounts of those whose funds have been utilised to facilitate trafficking. By doing this, the Bill handicaps the organised trafficking networks.

Systematic surveillance

The Bureau will also develop and monitor a database on every crime under this Act. Such systematic surveillance of offenders will, in about three years, not only help prevent trafficking but pre-empt it. The Bill does its bit. Now we must all come together to use it to deliver justice.

NO



TRIPTI TANDON
is deputy director of Lawyers Collective, an NGO working on human rights issues

Most clauses have little to do with trafficking and more do to with imposing surveillance

The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, fails in its fundamental purpose, i.e. it does not address the issue of trafficking.

Let us first be clear on what we understand by trafficking. 'Traffic' means to trade something. It's a transaction, and refers to the act of buying and selling. 'Traffic' or 'trafficking' is not wrong per se, but it is pejorative when the transaction involves prohibited goods such as narcotics or firearms or if it involves people. Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits "traffic in human beings and forced labour". This means that human beings cannot be bought and sold.

Proscribes legitimate activity

Barring one provision of the anti-trafficking Bill which criminalises the act of "buying or selling a person for a consideration," the rest of the clauses do not address this aspect at all. They either criminalise acts that are already punishable under other laws or proscribe activities that are not only legitimate but also constitutionally protected. An example of the former is the 'new' offence of "trafficking for the purpose of begging". Employing or causing someone to beg is already a criminal offence under anti-begging laws. Similarly, unauthorised immigration of citizens and foreigners is dealt with under the Passports Act, 1967, and the Foreigners Act, 1946, respectively. There is nothing novel in the proposed offence of "encouraging or abetting any person to migrate illegally into India or Indians in to some other country". Besides, illegal migration does not involve elements of 'trade' in human beings or trafficking. To term it an "aggravated form of trafficking" is questionable in itself.

The Bill also states that "whoever solicits or publicises electronically, taking or distributing obscene photographs or videos or providing materials or soliciting or guiding tourists or using agents or any other form which *may lead to* (emphasis mine) the trafficking of a person shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment." This means that no trafficking needs to take place; a remote possibility is sufficient to prosecute persons and shut down websites. It is important to remember that similar provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, were struck down by the Supreme Court for being vague and over-broad. Most clauses of the Bill have little to do with trafficking and more do to with imposing surveillance and restricting freedoms through punitive overkill.

Interplay with existing laws

The rhetoric around the Bill will also dissipate when we understand its interplay with existing laws, which have not been overruled or repealed. The anti-trafficking Bill relies on Section 370 of the IPC to define and establish that an offence of trafficking of persons has taken place. Section 370 was introduced in 2013 on the recommendation of the Justice Verma Committee. In order to try offences under the Bill, the prosecution will have to first prove the subsections of Section 370, which are that the victim was transported, recruited, harboured, received or transferred for the purposes of exploiting her/him by using force, abduction, deception, or by abuse of power. Only then will the provisions of the Bill take effect.

For the police and the courts, implementing the numerous anti-trafficking laws will be a nightmare. Only persons accused of trafficking will benefit from the legal mess. It is common knowledge that if more laws are applied, the easier it will be to find loopholes and secure an acquittal. How is this a leap or an advance in anti-trafficking legislation?

IT'S COMPLICATED



PRAVIN PATKAR
is the founder of Prerana, an anti-trafficking centre based in Mumbai

The Bill is well-intentioned and has some positive features, but is a wasted opportunity

The anti-trafficking Bill aims to solve an institutionalised socioeconomic problem with a 'crime and punishment' model, relying on police stations, courts and jails.

First, the positive features. The fact that the Ministry of Women and Child Development revised the Bill many times before arriving at the final version indicates its genuine intention to bring out a good legislation. The following sections of the Bill are satisfactory: search and seizure; rescue and medical examination of persons; and safety, care and protection of persons rescued. Punishment for omission of duty can be welcomed too, if it does not omit the government officials, including the police, from its ambit.

Drawbacks of the Bill

Having said that, the Bill is silent on many types of trafficking, such as trafficking for supply chains, commercial surrogacy, clinical trials, human organ trade, intergenerational trafficking, orphanage tourism and sex tourism. It also doesn't incorporate the long-pending demands for 'demand reduction' and 'non-institutionalised rehabilitation'.

Instead of strengthening the existing anti-trafficking laws, the Bill calls for another law, one that is uncalled-for and sloppily drafted. The Bill clashes with existing laws, which will lead to confusion.

In an age when an institutional approach for victim care is rapidly discredited and the demand for non-institutional approach is growing, the Bill adds two more unnecessary and vaguely defined institutions: protection homes and rehabilitation homes.

The term 'victim' appears several times in the Bill but is shoddily defined. Through Section 59, the Bill overrides a better definition of 'victim' given in the Code of Criminal Procedure. Going by the established practice, a victim is one who is 'rescued' by the raiding police. So, those rescued by NGOs, parents, friends, and so on are not victims.

Rescue and rehabilitation

Going by the public statements of an activist championing the Bill, traffickers get themselves 'rescued' by the police so that they can keep an eye on the rescued victims and silence them. In the absence of clarity, such traffickers who operate hand in glove with the police will be the first to get themselves 'rescued' and claim hefty compensations, rehabilitation, small capital for business, and worse, an absurd immunity for committing serious offences that are punishable. Such traffickers can simply plead to have committed the crime under threat or "undue personal influence", as provided in the Bill. In South Asia, often a trafficker is a person known to the victims. Section 2(x) makes such traffickers eligible for several benefits, independent of arrests, trial or its outcome.

How it is possible to expedite justice when the government is mandated by the Bill to merely issue a circular notifying the existing sessions courts as designated courts is not clear. No new courts or judges are mentioned. The district courts are neither exclusively dedicated to trafficking cases nor will they address such cases on priority. This move will only undo the gains of the past many decades of evolving more sensitive and specialised courts such as Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act courts, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences courts, and family courts. The drafters of the Bill don't understand rehabilitation. Section 30 (5) makes the rehabilitation fund available to the bureaucracy for the purposes of prevention, protection, prosecution. The Bill is by a well-intentioned Ministry with wrong advisers, but is a wasted opportunity.

SINGLE FILE

Firm but gentle grasp

Indian education needs to get past the obsession with conventions

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN



GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK PHOTO

On July 2, the Madras High Court directed the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur to redo its rank list for this year's IIT Joint Entrance Examination. This followed from a writ petition filed by a student who contended it was not fair to give equal preference to those who had properly followed the instructions in the question paper and those who hadn't. As per the instructions, all numerical answers had to be rounded off to the second decimal place. Therefore, the petitioner contended, even if the answer was an integer, say, 7, it had to be written as 7.00.

The court allowed this contention and ruled that those who had followed the instructions correctly would have to be ranked above those who did not do so. When IIT Kanpur appealed this decision, a division bench of the Madras High Court stayed the previous order calling it "unwarranted".

This debate raises the philosophical question of what the role of education is. Is it to train students to follow rules or is it to stimulate them to ponder and deduce the sense behind the lessons? Science and scientific method suggest that the latter is closer to the true purpose of education, particularly because the appeal of accuracy and reproducibility far outweighs the power of rules.

For example, consider the study of units and measurements. The International System of Units has, as base units, seven members including second, metre, kilogram, ampere, kelvin, mole and candela. Measurements of base units are defined according to agreed standards maintained by the International Bureau for Weights and Measures.

For instance, while the unit of time is the second, how long exactly is the second? The answer: "It is the duration of 9,192,631,770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of Caesium 133." Compare this to its earlier definition as 1/86,400 of a mean solar day - which, while having an appeal for its apparent simplicity, is much harder to precisely measure or check for being a standard value.

The exact length of one metre was the distance between two marks on a rod made of a platinum-iridium alloy securely housed in Paris. This artefact was retired long ago. As D.K. Aswal of National Physical Laboratory, Delhi, writes in an article in *Current Science,* since 1960, the metre has been defined in terms of the wavelength of light from krypton 86 radiation, hence, is derivable from nature. This dispensed with the need for the platinum-iridium rod.

The obsession with conventions is not the only problem with the Indian attitude to education, but it is an issue that must be tackled if we wish to move ahead. In this venture, the firm but light, and entirely alterable, grasp that science has on conventions can serve as a guiding sign.

The writer covers science for The Hindu



CONCEPTUAL

Feynman technique

EDUCATION

This refers to a learning technique which involves teaching a concept that one wants to learn to someone else in order to understand it better. A learner must first identify and try to explain the concept that he wants to learn in a simple manner to a toddler through the use of examples and other easy tools. He must then try to review and identify gaps in his own understanding of the concept that were revealed while trying to explain the concept. Afterwards, if necessary, he can try to further simplify the concept. The technique is named after American physicist Richard Feynman.

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ACT ONE

Responding to widespread concern

On the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018 overrides a March 20 judgment of the Supreme Court, which restricted the powers of the police under the Code of Criminal Procedure to arrest a suspect. The verdict also read down a specific bar in the Atrocities Act of 1989 against anticipatory bail. Accused persons were not allowed to seek anticipatory bail to thwart arrest.

The judgment reasoned that many false cases are foisted on innocent persons under the 1989 Act and that the fundamental right of an innocent person to be protected from arbitrary arrest should be protected. For this, the court ordered that a Deputy Superintendent of Police should conduct a "preliminary inquiry" into every complaint of atrocity committed against an SC/ST member. Subsequently, the arrest of the accused persons should be approved by the Senior Superintendent of Police concerned. The judgment had led to widespread violence and loss of lives across the country, following which the government moved the Supreme Court for a review.

The 2018 Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha even as the government's review petition is pending in the Supreme Court, overcomes the March 20 judgment by amending the 1989 Act to introduce Section 18A. This provision does away with the need for a preliminary inquiry or requirement for an investigating officer to take prior approval from his superior before registering an FIR on a complaint under the Act.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill highlights that the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure provide that information relating to commission of an offence should be recorded if the probe officer has "reason to suspect the commission of an offence". The investigating officer can arrest a person and there is no requirement of conducting a preliminary inquiry before recording information.

The principles of criminal jurisprudence and Section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure imply that once the investigating officer has reasons to suspect that an offence has been committed, he can arrest an accused. This decision to arrest or not to arrest cannot be taken away from the investigating officer.

The Bill brings back the bar on accused seeking anticipatory bail. It says the provision of Section 438 (anticipatory bail) of the Code shall not apply to a case under this Act, notwithstanding any judgment/order of any court.

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 10, 1968

Teen Murti house: P.M.'s reply

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi has informed the Samyukta Socialist leader, Mr. Madhu Limaye that the decision to make Teen Murti House the official residence of the Prime Minister was taken by the entire Cabinet after careful consideration and not by her or by the Deputy Prime Minister. In a letter addressed to Mr. Limaye yesterday [August 9, New Delhi], Mrs. Gandhi said "I was astonished to read the contents of your letter of August 8 in the newspapers this morning, before I actually received the letter itself. (The S.S.P. leader, Mr. Madhu Limaye has in a letter to the Prime Minister criticised the proposal and has urged her to consider certain issues before taking a final decision. He has accused Mr. Desai of "offering" the Teen Murti House to Mrs. Gandhi as "compensation" for the Prime Minister's support to his continuance in office).

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 10, 1918.

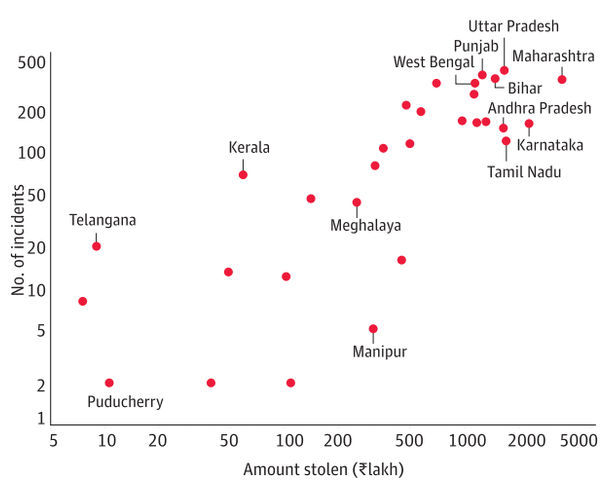
A Regrettable Incident. Recruits Vs Soldiers.

A Press Communique [in Simla] says: A most unfortunate incident is reported from Jhelum in which several soldiers lost their lives and others received injuries. It appears that owing to repeated acts of indiscipline, a body of recruits, attached to the depot of a unit at that station, was segregated under guard in some new barracks. When ordered to parade, the recruits refused to leave their barracks and force had to be used to eject them. An armed escort was attempting to marshall the recruits with a view to their removal for trial when the latter resisted the escort by throwing bricks and attempted to escape. While a portion of escort was doubling to cut off the fugitives one of the escort accidentally discharged his rifle.

DATA POINT

Bank theft

Banks in Uttar Pradesh accounted for 9% of the 4,191 theft and dacoity incidents countrywide in the past five years. However, in terms of amount stolen, Maharashtra topped the list, accounting for 14% of the total money stolen.



Source: Lok Sabha Question Hour

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FROM PAGE ONE

SC alters Lodha's BCCI proposals

But the Bench agreed that the National Cricket Club and the Cricket Club of India did not deserve to be full members in BCCI.

The court gave Services Sports Control Board, the Railways and the Association of Universities full membership in the BCCI. In case of varsities, the court described them as "a nucleus for encouraging the game of cricket among players of the college-going generation."

The Bench saw eye-to-eye with Justice Lodha's conclusion that "the game will be better off without cricketing oligopolies."

To this end, the court supported the recommendation of the Lodha panel that cricket administrators should undergo a "cooling-off period" before contesting elections to BCCI or State associations.

"Cooling-off must be accepted as a means to prevent a few individuals from regarding the administration of cricket as a personal turf," Justice Chandrachud agreed.

Age bar remains

But the Bench struck a balance. Justice Lodha had suggested that the cooling-off period should kick in for a cricket administrator after his every tenure of three years in office. Instead, the court said an administrator needs to "cool-off" only after two consecutive terms of six years in office, whether in BCCI or a State association or a combination of both. "Six years in continuation, is a sufficiently long period for experience and knowledge gained to be deployed in the interest of the game without at the same time resulting in a monopoly of power," Justice Chandrachud explained.

Nod for three changes to triple talaq Bill

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters that a provision has been added to allow the magistrate to grant bail after hearing the wife. "But the offence of instant triple talaq under the proposed law remains non-bailable," he clarified.

Senior Law Ministry officials, however, added that the magistrate would ensure bail only after the husband agrees to pay compensation to the wife as provided in the bill.

Stringent process

Another provision is with regard to making the process of registering FIRs more stringent. "Any husband giving triple talaq instantaneously and breaking the marriage...the FIR will become cognisable if and only if when FIR is filed by victim wife, or the blood relations or relations by marriage. Therefore, any outside agency or neighbour initiating this is ruled out," Mr. Prasad said.

The third amendment makes the offence of instant triple talaq "compoundable". Now, a magistrate can use his powers to settle the dispute between a husband and his wife. Under a compoundable offence, both parties have the liberty of withdrawing the case. The triple talaq bill has been cleared by Lok Sabha and is pending Rajya Sabha approval. Friday is the last day of the monsoon session of Parliament and the government could introduce amendments in the Upper House.

27 resorts in Nilgiris jumbo path to be shut

Regarding others, whose names were mentioned in the report, the Bench said necessary documents might be produced before the collector for verification within a period of two months from Thursday. The court posted the matter for hearing on October 24.

Hotel owners' plea

The Bench had earlier, while making it clear that the elephant corridor was off-limits for resorts or any construction activity, directed the Collector to file a report about the details of the existing resorts and how they came to be there.

The owners of some of these hotels and resorts have also filed appeals in the apex court against a Madras High Court order against them in this regard.

The Supreme Court had earlier said it was "extremely unfortunate" that several States had not responded to two communications sent by the Centre on the issue of elephant corridors to curb incidents of human-animal conflict and reduce animal fatalities.

The Centre had told the court that there were 27 "critical" elephant corridors across 22 States.

The court had earlier been informed that about 18,000 elephants travelled to Tamil Nadu during the monsoon season.

Oppn. loses battle for RS Deputy Chairman

The rout of Mr. Hariprasad is a huge defeat for the united opposition. "If we had a non-Congress candidate, we would have managed to get the numbers. After NCP backed out, we could have convinced TDP, at least we would have got the AAP votes," a senior Opposition MP said.

Mr. Modi spoke at length about Mr Harivansh recounting his humble background and four decades in journalism. In a lighter vein, he said the situation in the House is such that the umpire faces more problems than players.

Appreciating the grace and elegance of Mr. Harivansh Mr Jaitley said he has never made any personal attacks on anyone or disturbed the house proceedings during his stint as MP.

In a congratulatory message, TMC MP Derek O'Brien said it was a good match and some one had to win. "But at least both the batsmen scored a century," he said.

Speaking later to reporters, Mr O' Brien said the desperation of the government was evident with the Prime Minister himself working the phones to ensure support. "This any how was a warm up match. There is a world cup still to be played where the voters will be different," the TMC leader said. Congress MP and former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram too welcomed the result. In a series of tweets, he said, "Opposition Unity was reaffirmed in Rajya Sabha today. All 105 Opposition MPs stood together. The margin was only 20 votes. If the BJD had acted as a true Opposition party, the result would have been different,"

RS passes amendments to SC/ST Act

Lok Sabha has already cleared changes to the Act, overturning the Supreme Court's judgment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday unanimously cleared the amendments to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, overturning a March 2018 Supreme Court judgment pertaining to safeguard against the arrests under the Act. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha earlier this week.

The amendments provide that no preliminary enquiry will be required for registration of an FIR against any person under the Act; and the investigating officer will not require approval for arrests, if necessary. The provision of anticipatory bail as allowed by the Supreme Court has also been done away with.

Special courts in States

Replying to the debate on the Bill, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot said: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured his government's commitment towards backward classes. I today say that we are committed towards safeguarding their interest." He said 14 States had already constituted 195 special courts for deciding cases under the Act. Some States have declared district and session courts as special courts.

> **PM has assured his government's commitment towards backward classes**
>
> THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT
> Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment

The amendments include a timeline of two months for completing the investigations and filing a chargesheet after registering the FIR. The cases are to be disposed of within two months of filing the chargesheet.

Although the Congress supported the Bill, former Union Minister Kumari Selja questioned the government's intention, saying it had brought in the amendments due to public agitation and pressure from the Congress-led Opposition. Ms. Selja said the law should have been brought under the 9th schedule of the Constitution (for protection against judicial review), or else the amendments would be challenged in the court again.

Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav sought proper representation of the reserved categories in the judiciary, stating that it had virtually become the "third chamber" of Parliament and was encroaching upon its duty to legislate.

AIADMK's Vijila Sathyananth demanded a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, pointing out a very low conviction rate under the Act and that also, raised the issue of 9th schedule. Sanjay Raut of the Shiv Sena also supported the Bill, but said there was an apprehension that the law will be misused and innocents will be punished.

Concurring with Mr. Yadav's views, CPI's D. Raja also raised the issue of judiciary, the 9th schedule and sought a provision for fast-track courts for speedy justice.

JD(U)'s Ram Chandra Prasad Singh said the cases should be probed by an officer of the DSP rank and above. K. Keshava Rao of the TRS expressed apprehension that the amendments would be challenged in the court again.

PM Modi has an anti-Dalit mindset, charges Rahul

Congress chief launches scathing attack at protest meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of having an "anti-Dalit mindset," Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on him at a protest meet organised by various Dalit rights groups in New Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

Mr. Gandhi said, "Everything starts from intent. If he [Mr. Modi] would have had place for Dalits in his heart, then policies would have been framed differently. In Gujarat, he brought out a book of his speeches in which he wrote that Dalits get spiritual satisfaction out of cleaning. These lines throw light on his thinking



Rahul Gandhi

and ideology." Mr. Gandhi alleged that Dalits are being beaten openly and crushed in States where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is in power.

'No place in heart, mind'

"His thinking is anti-Dalit. All Dalits and people from the weaker sections know that the Prime Minister has no place for Dalits in his heart and mind and wants to crush Dalits. That is why we are standing against him," he said.

Mr. Gandhi alleged that the Prime Minister, the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh don't want Dalits to have their share, whether it is in matters of education or the nation's progress.

He asserted that the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act was originally brought by the Rajiv Gandhi government, and cited Rohith Vemula's suicide as an example of the BJP crushing Dalit aspiration.

Congress' legacy is to insult Dalit leaders, says Amit Shah

'NDA has ensured strongest amendment to the SC/ST Act'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP president Amit Shah launched a sharp attack on Congress chief Rahul Gandhi terming him weak on facts and the Congress's legacy as being that of an "anti-Dalit party," after the latter took part in a protest by SC/ST groups and characterised the Modi government as having an "anti-Dalit mindset."

In a series of tweets, Mr. Shah said the government had not just brought in and passed a Bill strengthening the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, after a Supreme Court judgment had introduced tweaks, but also got the OBC Bill cleared in this session of Parliament.



Amit Shah

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's legacy is of the strongest amendments to the SC/ST, OBC commission, panchteerth [marking important places in constitution framer B.R. Ambedkar's life], while the Congress' legacy is to insult Dalit leaders and Dalit pride, oppose the Mandal commission and block the OBC commission," he said.

'Give time to facts'

"Rahulji, when you are free from winking and disrupting Parliament, give some time to facts as well. NDA Government, through a Cabinet decision and in Parliament ensured the strongest amendment to the [SC/ST] Act. Why are you protesting that?" he said. "It would have been good if Congress President would have spoken about his party's treatment towards Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Babu Jagjivan Ram and Sitaram Kesari. Congress way of treating Dalits is patronising and condescending," he added.

Panel fails to adopt report on Doklam

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

For two consecutive times, the parliamentary panel on External Affairs has failed to adopt a report on the recent Doklam crisis, allegedly because of protests from BJP members on the committee.

The report, according to the sources, shows the contradictory stand of the Defence Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry on the Doklam crisis. At least two members said that during the deposition in front of the panel, the defence establishment spoke about the build up at Doklam on both sides of the border and claims that the crisis was solved due to pressure from the Army. The mandarins at the External Affairs Ministry paint an entirely different picture claiming that the issue was diplomatically resolved.

The report is also critical of the way the government handled the crisis giving leeway to the Chinese government.

The panel is headed by former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor and also has Congress president Rahul Gandhi as member. The panel has been working on the report for over a year and wished to submit it during the monsoon session, which ends on Friday.

Tearful farewell



Kanika Rane, wife of martyr Major Kaustubh Rane, holding their two-year-old son Agastya at his funeral in Mira Road, Mumbai, on Thursday. Major Rane, who died fighting terrorists in J&K, was laid to rest with full State honours in the presence of thousands of people. ▪ VIJAY BATE

Lok Sabha disrupted over Rafale deal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha witnessed a couple of adjournments on Thursday as Congress members stalled the proceedings, demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) inquiry into the Rafale fighter jet deal and a reply from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) MPs trooped into the well, protesting against the Centre's "failure" to transfer about 200 acres of defence land to the State government for building a new secretariat and carrying out other projects.

Congress MPs seemed to have taken their cue from their party chief Rahul Gandhi's tweet in the morning that targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Here's why HE couldn't look me in the eye in Parliament, repeated by BJP people who have some guts," Mr. Gandhi said, tagging a news report on the statement by Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and Prashant Bhusan that called the deal a "major scandal."

Seeking to go big on the Rafale deal, the Congress has also called for a meeting on its MPs on Friday to discuss floor strategy on the last day.

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge raised the issue soon after zero hour began and called the deal one of the biggest scams. As Speaker Sumitra Mahajan continued with the scheduled business, Congress members stormed into the well, carrying placards and raising slogans.

When TRS MPs trooped into the well and the protests grew louder, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings first for about 20 minutes till 1 p.m. Continued disruptions forced another adjournment until the post-lunch session.

IN BRIEF



Gadkari seeks Sonia's help to pass MV Bill

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari reached out to the former Congress president Sonia Gandhi to help the government pass the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill, pending for one year in the Rajya Sabha. He said it seeks to vastly improve the compensation for road accident victims. Referring to the proposed changes in the Motor Vehicle Act, he denied that it sought to take away any power from the State governments.

RS passes National Sports University Bill

NEW DELHI

The National Sports University Bill and the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill were passed in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. The National Sports University Bill, for setting up of a National Sports University in Manipur to promote education in areas of sports sciences, technology, management and coaching, was discussed and passed. The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, as cleared by the Lok Sabha, was passed by voice vote. It provides for replacement of the Central Council of Homoeopathy with a board of governors.

Gritty Editor who backed socially conscious reporting

Janata Dal (U) MP Harivansh is the first non-Congress Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha in over 40 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha's new Deputy Chairperson, Janata Dal (U) MP Harivansh was elected with more than adequate numbers on Thursday morning, making him the first non-Congress person to occupy the position in over 41 years, the last being Samyukta Socialist Party leader Godey Murahari, who served between April 1974 to March 1977.

Mr. Harivansh (he abjured the use of his surname



Harivansh

"Singh" by deed poll years ago to remove all caste, community indicators from his name), was born in Sitab Diara village on the Bihar-Uttar Pradesh border, the birth place of famous socialist leader Jayprakash Narayan and came under socialist influence early in life.

Having completed his masters in economics and a diploma in journalism from Benaras Hindu University, he was tipped for a banking job. However, he followed his inclination for journalism, with early influences including famous author Dharamveer Bharati, under whom he worked as a journalist in the magazine *Dharamyug*. From there to *Ravivar*, the magazine published by the Ananda Bazar Patrika group, and later as editor of *Prabhat Khabar*, Mr. Harivansh displayed both grit as an Editor and a humanitarian touch in the reporting that he encouraged.

He is credited with bringing to light the astounding story of Dasarath Manjhi from Gaya, who with just a hammer and a chisel and a labour of 22 years, created a 110 metre road through a mountain to ensure access for the people of his village after his wife died, unable to reach medical help. That story is now legend for persistence and the triumph of the human spirit.

Stint with former PM

Through his socialist inclinations, Mr. Harivansh was also close to former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, who appointed him as media adviser.

In 2014, he was nominated to the Rajya Sabha for the first time by the Janata Dal (U), and it is the first time that a single term MP is being appointed Deputy Chairperson.

Discretion was a quality flagged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "As media adviser to former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, he knew when his boss was to resign. He didn't allow a soul to know of it, not even the paper where he had served as Editor for many years," said Mr. Modi of Mr. Harivansh.

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IN BRIEF



Rekha Sharma is Chairperson of NCW

NEW DELHI

NCW member Rekha Sharma, 54, who stoked a controversy by suggesting abolition of confessions in churches, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women. PTI

TRAI Chairman gets two-year extension

AHMEDABAD

The Modi government on Thursday extended the term of Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) Chairman R.S. Sharma till September 2020. His term was to end this week.

Textiles Secretary shunted to Land Resources Dept.

AHMEDABAD

Textiles Secretary Anant Kumar Singh was shunted to the Land Resources Department as part of a minor top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected on Thursday.

Trafficking in Bengal: rights panel seeks report

KOLKATA

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of a report published in *The Hindu* on the plight of trafficking survivors in South 24 Parganas district, the West Bengal Human Rights Commission has sought a report from the West Bengal Legal Services Authority and the Women and Child Development and the Social Welfare Department in this regard by September 24.

Put legacy data online: rights body

'It will be helpful for those left out of the draft NRC'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A rights body in Assam has urged Prateek Hajela, the State coordinator for the National Register of Citizens (NRC), to make the legacy data available on its web portal.

Uploading the data would help people who were left out of the complete NRC draft, published on July 30, as many of them had "failed to collect the legacy data or collected wrong data" due to illiteracy and sheer ignorance", the Citizens' Rights Preservation Committee (CRPC) said.

Legacy data is a set of documents comprising the NRC of 1951 and electoral rolls up to March 24, 1971, which is the cut-off date for detecting foreigners in Assam.

Available for 3 years

NRC officials said the legacy data was available online for three years after the exercise began. It is now under login credentials, which means the access is limited to certain officials. Public access to the legacy data was reportedly withdrawn after cases of misuse.

"Easier access to legacy data would be of help for the left-out people during the process of claims, objections and corrections," CRPC general secretary Bidhayak Das Purkayastha said.

Political parties and NGOs across Assam have set up assistance booths ahead of distribution of forms for claims, objections and corrections from Friday. Some MLAs have taken up the responsibility individually.

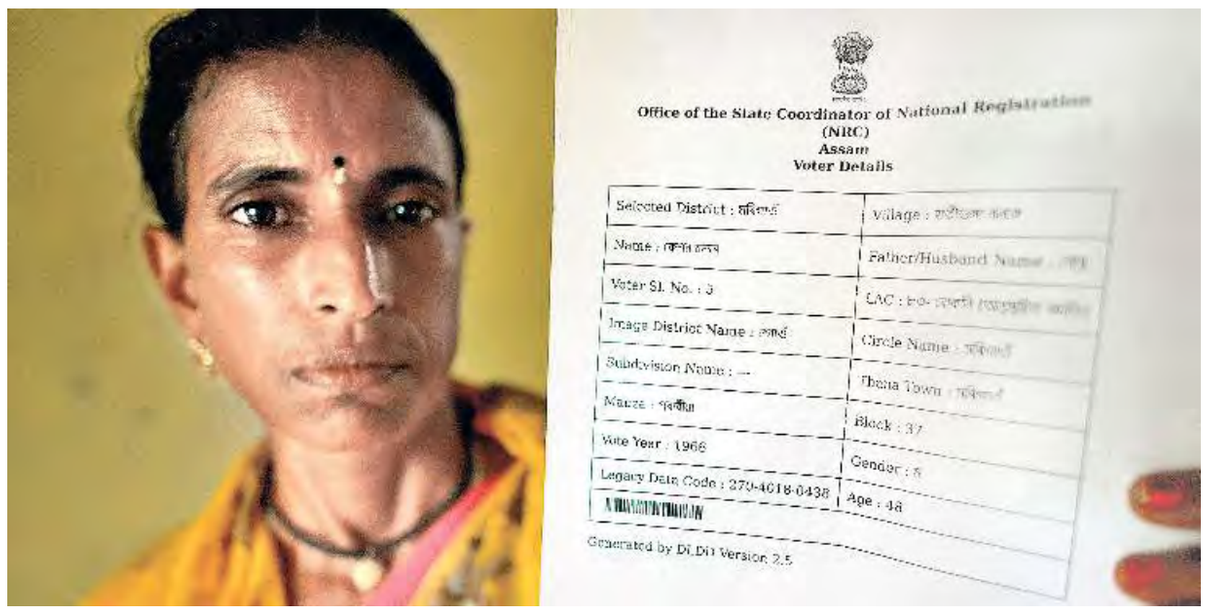
Assistance centres

"We have set up Bidhayak (MLA) Seva Kendras in Dhekiajuli. We will support every single Indian left out of the final draft of NRC, and will ensure no Indian is left out," Ashok Singhal, the BJP legislator representing the Dhekiajuli seat, said.

Other organisations such as the Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chhatra Parishad have expressed concern over the alleged move to penalise people who fail to prove the reason behind filing an objection to the inclusion of a suspected foreigner, doubtful voter or declared foreigner in the draft.

"It is too premature a fear, since the Supreme Court would take a call on what will or will not happen during the upcoming phase of the NRC exercise," an official said, declining to be quoted.

Former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, meanwhile, criticised Mr. Hajela for a work "done poorly as proved by the apex court's censure". Not ruling out a "faulty" final NRC, he said the citizens' charter would turn into "waste paper" if the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 is turned into law.



Paper trail: A file photo of a woman showing her legacy data details in Morigaon district of Assam. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Opposition delegation meets President on NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A delegation of 10 Opposition parties met President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday and urged him to ensure that not a single Indian citizen is excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

The delegation included Congress leader Anand Sharma, TMC's Derek O'Brien, DMK's Tiruchi Siva, NCP's Supriya Sule, CPI(M)'s Md. Salim, SP's Ramgopal Yadav, TDP's Y.S. Chowdary and AAP's Sanjay Singh.

A memorandum submitted by the delegation accused the government of undermining the nation's democratic and secular values. It said the government was spreading misleading statements against the Supreme Court on the NRC issue. "This NRC list has not even spared some brave soldiers, ex-*Rashtrapatiji*'s family, a former Chief Minister and other elected representatives and prominent members of the civil society," the memorandum said.

KEY GOVERNMENT DECISIONS

Now, States can buy pulses at a discount

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Having procured an all-time high amount of pulses from farmers over the past two years, the Centre has now decided to offload stock from its overflowing warehouses by selling it to States for use in welfare schemes at a discount of ₹15 per kg over the wholesale rate.

At its meeting on Thursday, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the plan to sell almost 35 lakh tonnes of tur, channa, masoor, moong and urad dal. The scheme is likely to cost the exchequer ₹5, 237 crore, according to an official statement.

Farmers have seen record harvests of pulses in the past two years, resulting in a sharp drop in prices. With the government making market interventions to protect farmers' interests, price support schemes have been widespread in many States. This has led to a record procurement of 45.43 lakh tonnes of pulses.

In order to clear space for the procurement this season, the Centre has decided to offer 34.88 lakh tonnes of pulses to the States for use in ration shops under the public distribution system or in welfare schemes such as mid-day meals or the Integrated Child Development Programme. This will be a one-time dispensation for a period of 12 months or till the stock runs out.

Nod for four more NDRF battalions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday gave its approval for raising four more battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at an estimated cost of ₹637 crore.

The aim is to reduce the response time, keeping in view the country's vast geographic area, an official statement said.

Cabinet extends PMGSY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) beyond the 12th five year plan period.

The decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs would help in connecting 38,412 habitations at an estimated cost of ₹84, 934 crore.

'India gained exponentially from U.S. nuclear deal'

None now objects when India conducts test: Saran

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India has gained exponentially from the Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear deal, said former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, at an event to mark 10 years since U.S. nuclear restrictions were lifted on India. He listed permanent access to nuclear fuel and a change in international perception as the biggest benefits for India since the U.S. Congress passed the deal in September 2008.

"Today we have long term agreements for fuel with at least a dozen countries. From being a target of technology denial regimes, and also [being targeted for nuclear] testing, we are now not a target. No one now objects when India conducts a missile test," said Mr. Saran, who was subsequently Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's special envoy and Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board.

Three errors

Speaking at the same function, organised by the Society for Policy Studies, former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar said India's decision to go ahead with the civilian nuclear deal in 2008 was an effort to reverse "three strategic errors".

"There was the error of partition, where we lost our territory, the error of economics where many of the reforms of the 90s should have come earlier, and on the nuclear side, had we pushed our nuclear programme as consistently as China did in the 1950s, we could have made the Non Proliferation Treaty deadline."

Speaking about China's opposition in 2016 to India's membership application for the Nuclear Suppliers group (NSG), Mr. Saran said he didn't think it was "likely" that the membership would come through in the "near future," although, Mr. Jaishankar said he would "not rule it out," given geopolitical shifts that could change China's perceptions.



Shyam Saran ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Cut-off date

The Nuclear Suppliers group had made 1967 the cut-off date for declaring nuclear powers, which India missed as it conducted its first nuclear test in 1974, which resulted in sanctions and cutting off of assistance from western countries. In 1998, after the Pokhran tests, India faced further sanctions, which led to many hardships, said Mr. Jaishankar, as he described the journey to 2005, when India and the U.S. signed a breakthrough defence framework agreement that changed the course of the relationships.

Both Mr. Saran and Mr. Jaishankar were part of the Indian diplomatic team that travelled to the U.S. in July 2008, and negotiated the contours of the agreement that would have to be cleared by the U.S. Congress where many opposed the George Bush plan to end nuclear restrictions on India and begin nuclear trade. "Our biggest problem was that a gentleman called Barack Obama posed the most difficulties about the deal and he was not even prepared to meet us," said Mr. Jaishankar, to laughs from the audience, as he described "killer amendments" that the former U.S. Senator, who later became U.S. President, tried to introduce.

CBI: 'hawala' records of senior officials seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI has seized 'hawala' transaction records indicating that several senior government officials were illegally transferring money abroad. The papers were found on the premises of a caterer, who has been arrested along with a Mumbai-based businessman for alleged role in a corruption case.

Caterer Rakesh Tiwari and Mumbai-based Neeraj Kochar, the owner of Viraj Profiles, have been arrested for alleged conspiracy to favour him in a disproportionate assets case against an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) official, through certain officials of the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch-III.

The CBI is examining the transactions to identify those involved in the illegal money transfers, an official said. The case is related to another FIR lodged by the CBI against IRS official Vivek Batra, his wife Priyanka, Kochar and others.

'Will continue oil trade with India'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Venezuela's crude shipments to India, its third largest export market after the U.S. and China, fell 21% in the first six months of the year, but the country's Ambassador in Delhi has said plans are on to boost production at home and that oil trade with India will continue unabated despite U.S. sanctions.

"Venezuela has been affected by U.S. sanctions. These are economic sanctions, aggression, against the people of Venezuela. As a result, production has come down. But we will continue our oil trade with India," Ambassador Augusto Montiel told *The Hindu* in an interview.



Augusto Montiel

Venezuela shipped 2,80,000 barrels per day (bpd) of heavy crude to India in the first half of the year, down from 3,55,500 bpd shipped in the corresponding period of last year, according to a Reuters report. The Latin American country's oil production averaged 1.58 million bpd in the first five months of 2018, its lowest annual level since 1985.

"Oil is the world's most wanted resource. And Venezuela has the world's largest certified oil reserves. It also has huge coltan reserves. That's why they are after Venezuela," he said, referring to the U.S. sanctions.

Mr. Montiel said India had assured Venezuela that it would not support unilateral sanctions. "Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj told us last year that India would not back unilateral sanctions. These are unilateral sanctions imposed by the U.S., not by the UN."

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ELSEWHERE



'Pak. will build balanced relationship with U.S.'

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Prime Minister-in-waiting Imran Khan has said his government will build a more "balanced and trustworthy" relationship with the U.S., asserting that the trust deficit has resulted in many ups and downs in the bilateral ties. "We count trade and economic relations with the U.S. extremely important," he was quoted as saying by the *Dawn*. PTI

U.S. police officer's son held for beating Sikh man

MANTECA

A California police chief says his family is "shaken to the core" after his son was arrested in the beating of a 71-year-old Sikh man. Tyrone McAllister, 18, and a 16-year-old boy could face charges including attempted robbery, elder abuse and assault following Monday's attack in Manteca. AP

U.S. hits Russia with new sanctions

Blames Moscow for the attempted assassination of a former Russian spy in England and his daughter

GARDINER HARRIS
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration said on Wednesday that it would soon impose new sanctions against Russia in response to the attempted assassination in March of a former Russian spy living in England and his daughter.

Under the terms of the sanctions, any attempt by a U.S. company to obtain an export licence to sell anything with a potential national security purpose – gas turbine engines, electronics, integrated circuits and testing and calibration equipment – will be automatically denied. Exporters can attempt to prove that the goods will be used for legitimate purposes, but that is a tough hurdle to clear.

An administration official described the list of affected items as "enormously elaborate", but outside experts said the actual amount of exports involved is fairly small because the Obama administration already banned exports to Russia that could have military purposes.



Protective measures: A file photo of personnel searching a van in Winterslow, following the poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia. ▪ AP

Tougher measures are called for in the legislation, however, if Russia fails to prove that it is no longer using chemical weapons.

Important step

"Today's step is an important but moderate set of sanctions," said Peter Harrell, a sanctions official in the Obama administration, adding that further sanctions expected in three months "could be among the most severe yet, but could also be quite modest, depending on where the Trump administration wants to go."

The sanctions were imposed under the provisions of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991, which mandates that once the government has determined that a country has used chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law or even made "substantial preparations" to do so, sanctions must be imposed.

British officials had declared that Russia was to blame for the attempted poisoning of Sergei V. Skripal, a British citizen, and his daughter Yulia, in large part because of the obscure poison involved. It was one of a strain of nerve agents known as Novichok that they say is kept under tight control by the Russian authorities.

The Trump administration agreed with the determination by the British government that set in motion the sanctions. NY TIMES

Moscow vows to retaliate

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Thursday vowed to retaliate against "unacceptable" new U.S. sanctions against Russia over its alleged role in a nerve agent attack on a former spy, as the ruble and Russian stocks tumbled.

Russia will "work on developing retaliatory measures," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told journalists, accusing the U.S. of "demonising Russia".

"We consider categorically unacceptable the linking of new restrictions, which we as before consider illegal, to the case in Salisbury," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

He called the U.S. an unpredictable partner but said "Moscow retains hopes of building constructive relations with Washington".

Venezuela cracks down on Oppn.

Two lawmakers stripped of immunity

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CARACAS

Venezuela's pro-government Constitutional Assembly stripped two Opposition lawmakers of their immunity from prosecution on Wednesday, accusing them of having roles in a drone attack that authorities say was an attempt to kill socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

The National Constituent Assembly voted unanimously to lift the protection for Julio Borges and Juan Requesens, who have seats in the Opposition-controlled legislature. The move came after the Supreme Court ordered the arrest of Mr. Borges, who lives in exile in Colombia's capital, Bogota.

Mr. Requesens was arrested on Tuesday, an action purportedly captured in a video circulating on social media.

Mr. Maduro has accused the two of being tied to a weekend incident, in which two drones loaded with explosives exploded while he spoke at an outdoor military celebration.

Constituent Assembly leader Diosdado Cabello said Mr. Borges and Mr. Requesens were just the first lawmakers to be accused in the investigation of the incident.

'Justice is coming'

"These are the first two who appear to be involved, but the investigation continues," Mr. Cabello said. "Justice is coming."

In ordering the 48-year-old Borges' arrest, the Supreme Court accused him of "flagrant crimes," including public incitement, treason to the fatherland and attempted homicide.



Nicolas Maduro

During a national television broadcast on Tuesday, Mr. Maduro accused Mr. Requesens, 29, and Mr. Borges of complicity in the weekend drone explosions.

On Wednesday, Mr. Borges, who has rejected the accusation, met with top lawmakers in Colombia, which has blamed Mr. Maduro's government for causing the crisis that has led to masses of Venezuelans fleeing across the border into the neighboring country.

"We want to see you out of power, imprisoned for the violation of human rights, imprisoned for the destruction of democracy," Mr. Borges said. "The only promoter of violence is a man named Nicolas Maduro." The six suspects arrested earlier face charges of treason, attempted murder and terrorism. Investigators have linked a total of 19 people to the attack, Chief Prosecutor Tarek William Saab said on Wednesday.

During his speech, Mr. Maduro displayed wanted posters with names and pictures of other suspects who he said are living in the U.S. and Colombia. He said he would provide evidence to authorities in both countries and ask for their cooperation in handing over suspects.

At least 29 children killed in strike on Yemen bus

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SANAA

A strike on a bus in rebel-held northern Yemen killed at least 29 children on Thursday, the Red Cross said, as the Saudi-led coalition faced a growing outcry over the attack.

The coalition said it had carried out what it called "legitimate military action" in the area, targeting Huthi rebels responsible for a deadly missile attack on the Saudi city of Jizan on Wednesday.

But the International Committee of the Red Cross said the strike hit a bus filled with children in the Huthi stronghold of Saada, causing dozens of casualties.



Providing aid: Doctors treating a boy injured in the air strike in Saada, Yemen on Thursday. ▪ REUTERS

"A hospital supported by our team in Yemen received the bodies of 29 children under the age of 15 and 48 wounded, including 30 children," the ICRC said on Twitter.

'Toll not final'

A spokesman for the Red Cross in Sanaa said the toll was not final as casualties from the attack were taken to several hospitals.

The Huthis' Al-Masirah TV, quoting the rebel Health Ministry, reported that 50 people were killed and 77 wounded, "mostly children", though it was not possible to verify that toll.

The Save the Children charity, quoting its staff, said that at the time of the attack the children were on a bus heading back to school "from a picnic, when the driver stopped to get a drink".

Geert Cappelaere, the UN Children's Fund regional director in the Middle East and North Africa, said all the children on the bus were "reportedly under the age of 15".

"Does the world really need more innocent children's lives to stop the cruel war on children in Yemen?" he added.

The coalition, which also includes the United Arab Emirates, intervened in 2015 to try to restore the internationally recognised government after the rebels drove it out of the capital Sanaa.

Saudi Arabia had shot down a missile fired by the Huthis on Wednesday, with debris killing a Yemeni man and wounding 11 others, the coalition said.

The missile was fired from the rebel-held Yemeni province of Amran towards Jizan, the coalition said.

The Huthis have in recent months ramped up missile attacks against Saudi Arabia.

Pence unveils plans to build U.S. Space Force

It will be the sixth military branch

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence on Thursday unveiled details of plans to build a U.S. Space Force that would become the sixth branch of America's massive military, saying the "time has come" to prepare for "the next battlefield."

President Donald Trump had ordered the creation of the Space Force in June, arguing the Pentagon needs it to tackle vulnerabilities in space and assert U.S. dominance in orbit. Its creation, however, is not a done deal, as it needs to be approved by Congress, and the concept has met with some skepticism from lawmakers and defence officials, who are wary of the cost and added bureaucracy.

But Mr. Pence was unequivocal in presenting the administration's wish for it to become a reality – preferably by 2020, the end of Mr. Trump's term in office.

Mr. Pence said an independent Space Force was essential to counter Russia and China, which are "aggressively" working toward anti-satellite capabilities.

He repeated Mr. Trump's call for Congress to invest an additional $8 billion in U.S. space security systems over the next five years. Shortly after his speech, Mr. Trump tweeted: "Space Force all the way!"

Argentina Senate votes down abortion Bill

It was earlier passed in Lower House

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BUENOS AIRES

Argentina's senators on Thursday voted against legalising abortion in the homeland of Pope Francis, dashing the hopes of women's rights groups after the Bill was approved by the legislature's Lower House months earlier.

The vote, with 38 against, 31 in favour and two abstentions, capped a marathon session that began the day before and stretched into the early hours of Thursday.

Fireworks and shouts of joy erupted among anti-abortion activists camped outside Congress, while pro-choice campaigners, many decked in the green scarves that had come to symbolize their movement, were downcast.

Some burnt garbage and wooden pallets and threw stones at riot police, who attempted to disperse them with tear gas and water cannon.

The vote followed a referendum in Ireland, another traditionally Catholic country, in May that paved the way to legislate for the termination of fetuses.

It also came after months of heated campaigns on the polarising issue.

The move was also condemned by Amnesty International, which said Argentina had squandered an historic opportunity.

Trump ally indicted for illegal trading

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

U.S. House Republican and Trump loyalist Chris Collins, who has been indicted by federal prosecutors for securities fraud, remained defiant on Wednesday as he vowed to clear his name and secure a re-election.

Mr. Collins, 68, was arrested and charged along with his son Cameron Collins and another defendant for their role in illegal trading of stock in Australian biotech firm Innate Immunotherapeutics, where the elder Collins was a board member, according to the indictment, which was just unsealed.

"As I fight to clear my name, rest assured I will continue to work hard for the people and constituents of the 27th Congressional District of New York, and I will remain on the ballot running for re-election this November," the Congressman told a press conference late on Wednesday.

Trudeau stands firm amid dispute with Saudi Arabia

'Canada will always speak up on questions of human rights'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OTTAWA

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday refused to apologise for calling out Saudi Arabia on its human rights record, after Riyadh said it was considering further punitive measures against Ottawa over its criticisms of the kingdom.

Tensions have been high between the two countries since Monday, when Riyadh expelled Canada's Ambassador, recalled its own envoy and froze all new trade and investments.

Riyadh also said it will relocate thousands of Saudi students studying in Canada to other countries, while state airline Saudia announced it was suspending flights to Toronto.

The kingdom was angry at Ottawa for openly denouncing a crackdown on rights activists in Saudi Arabia.

But on Wednesday, Mr. Trudeau stood firm.



Justin Trudeau

"Canada will always speak strongly and clearly in private and in public on questions of human rights," he said.

"We do not wish to have poor relations with Saudi Arabia," he added, saying Ottawa recognises that Riyadh "has made progress when it comes to human rights."

Mr. Trudeau noted that his Foreign Minister, Chrystia Freeland, had "a long conversation" on Tuesday with her Saudi counterpart Adel al-Jubeir to try to resolve the dispute. "Diplomatic talks continue," he said.

On Wednesday, Saudi state media said the kingdom has nevertheless also stopped all medical treatment programmes in Canada and was working on transferring all patients there to other countries.

Further straining ties, the Saudi central bank instructed its overseas asset managers to dispose of their Canadian equities, bonds and cash holdings "no matter the cost", the *Financial Times* reported.

But in an apparent effort to safeguard its economic interests, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said the dispute will not affect state oil giant Aramco's clients in Canada. Saudi oil supplies are independent of political considerations, Mr. Falih was quoted as saying by state media.

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MARKET WATCH

	09-08-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,024	0.36
US Dollar	68.68	-0.07
Gold	30,560	-0.01
Brent oil	72.22	-0.68

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	378.00	3.40
Asian Paints	1417.35	-8.40
Axis Bank	621.05	24.75
Bajaj Auto	2658.60	-2.00
Bajaj Finserv	7075.10	23.50
Bajaj Finance	2830.15	17.00
Bharti Airtel	367.05	-18.25
BPCL	388.95	1.65
Cipla	619.15	-13.40
Coal India	280.10	4.10
Dr Reddys Lab	2237.70	-7.80
Eicher Motors	27438.75	-154.40
GAIL (India)	375.55	-1.45
Grasim Ind	997.35	-11.75
HCL Tech	956.65	-7.90
HDFC	1969.95	-14.65
HDFC Bank	2118.50	-17.85
Hero MotoCorp	3281.35	-17.70
Hindalco	227.45	6.85
HPCL	280.45	-2.25
Hind Unilever	1754.20	-2.95
Indiabulls HFL	1349.50	-20.65
ICICI Bank	333.00	14.30
IndusInd Bank	1985.05	-15.60
Bharti Infratel	293.25	2.80
Infosys	1379.95	17.20
Indian OilCorp	165.40	-0.50
ITC	302.50	1.55
Kotak Bank	1277.25	-11.05
L&T	1284.70	-13.55
Lupin	822.85	-2.70
M&M	933.20	4.90
Maurti Suzuki	9146.05	-61.35
NTPC	160.70	2.45
ONGC	168.90	-3.60
PowerGrid Corp	192.60	3.10
Reliance Ind	1217.95	0.25
State Bank	317.40	8.70
Sun Pharma	571.45	-2.55
Tata Motors	257.85	2.70
Tata Steel	585.95	8.45
TCS	1974.35	0.35
Tech Mahindra	646.20	-7.70
Titan	915.30	-19.70
UltraTech Cement	4310.80	66.70
UPL	637.75	-10.10
Vedanta	230.60	5.80
Wipro	278.70	0.20
YES Bank	381.05	-1.70
Zee Entertainment	522.90	-7.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.48	68.80
Euro	79.37	79.75
British Pound	88.29	88.70
Japanese Yen (100)	61.61	61.90
Chinese Yuan	10.04	10.09
Swiss Franc	68.94	69.27
Singapore Dollar	50.22	50.47
Canadian Dollar	52.49	52.74
Malaysian Ringitt	16.80	16.91

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 09 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	41.3	(41.2)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2821	(2822)

Sensex extends dizzying climb

Stock index adds 1,000 points in just 10 sessions to close at a record 38,024.37

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Sustained buying support from foreign and domestic institutional investors, along with earnings-revival fuelled optimism, led the Sensex to one of its fastest 1,000 points rallies on Thursday as the equity benchmark soared above the 38,000-mark for the first time ever.

The 30-share Sensex touched an intraday high of 38,076.23 before closing at 38,024.37, up 136.81 points, or 0.36%. Gains were led by ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and State Bank of India along with NTPC, Power Grid Corp. and Vedanta.



Highs and lows: Overall market breadth showed improvement with 1,331 stocks advancing and 1,351 declining. ▪ PAUL NORONHA

Breadth improves

Overall market breadth, while still negative, showed a marked improvement with 1,331 stocks advancing as against 1,351 declines. This was in contrast to some of the earlier sessions when the benchmarks rose amid significant broader market weakness. Investor optimism could be gauged from the fact that the Sensex had closed above the 37,000 mark only 9 trading sessions earlier on July 27. The index earlier took 13 sessions to move from 36,000 to 37,000. Incidentally, it took only five trading sessions in September 2007 for the Sensex to move from 16,000 to the 17,000 mark.

"Markets are gradually moving higher, without giving much importance to the global issues, be it escalation of trade war or currency fluctuation," said Jayant Manglik, President, Religare Broking.

"It shows that participants are focusing mainly on earnings, which are largely in line with street expectations and even surpassed in some cases," he said. Investors ought to "however, maintain extra caution in stock selection now as we have already seen decent surge," he added.

Foreign portfolio investors have made net purchases of almost ₹2,000 crore in August, while flows from domestic institutional investors are already at record levels in 2018.

Panel favours powers for SEBI to intercept phone calls

Move may help bolster probes; checks and balances urged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A committee set up by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recommended giving the capital market watchdog direct powers to intercept phone calls for better investigation while strengthening the regulations to act against perpetrators of financial statements fraud.



Direct power

"The committee has recommended that SEBI may seek direct power to intercept calls to aid in investigation, akin to the power granted to the Central Board of Direct Taxes. However, proper checks and balances must be ensured for use of the power," stated the report by the Committee on Fair Market Conduct formed under the chairmanship of former law secretary T.K. Viswanathan.

Currently, the regulator has powers to seek call data records as part of its probes, but the committee is of the view that the regulator needs more powers to assist in its regulatory responsibilities. In what could mean giving SEBI more teeth to act against auditors and CAs, the panel has also recommended powers to take "direct action against perpetrators of financial fraud."

The panel is in favour of including a new sub-section within the SEBI Act to prohibit schemes or artifices to manipulate the books of accounts and financial statements or to hide diversion, misutilisation or siphoning of public issue proceeds.

The panel has proposed broadening the ambit of manipulative and unfair trade practices, stating that listed firms should have policies to deal with leaks of unpublished price sensitive information.

HC to hear T Rowe Price in UTI case on Aug. 13

Directive sought on MF ownership too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court will hear the petition filed by T Rowe Price International against the other shareholders of UTI Mutual Fund on August 13, which is also the day on which the tenure of the current managing director Leo Puri ends.

A division bench headed by Justices R.M. Borde and P.K. Chavan posted the matter to August 13 after T Rowe Price, which has a 26% stake in UTI MF, asked the court to direct the board of the fund house to allow Mr. Puri to continue as the managing director for at least another 12 months.

According to T Rowe Price, government-owned promoters of UTI MF – State Bank of India (SBI), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) – are not in favour of granting an extension to Mr. Puri even though a successor has not yet been identified.

As per the petition, the board of UTI Trustees approved allowing Mr. Puri to continue for a further 12 months, but independent directors on the board of UTI AMC opposed the decision.

The overseas shareholder also wants the court to direct the other promoters to comply with the new ownership norms for mutual funds that bar one entity from holding more than 10% in more than one AMC.

HDFC Bank seeks clarification on exclusive security, yet to sign ICA

Asks IBA for solution in the event of lenders deciding to liquidate all securities

MANOJIT SAHA
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank, the second largest private sector lender in the country, is yet to sign the Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) – an understanding among lenders to resolve stressed assets quickly.

As many as 29 lenders have signed the ICA, which was framed under the aegis of the Indian Banks' Association last month, following the Sunil Mehta Committee's recommendation.

The ICA is applicable to all corporate borrowers who have availed loans for an amount of ₹50 crore or more under consortium lending/multiple banking arrangements.



As many as 29 lenders have signed the Inter Creditor Agreement, so far. ▪ REUTERS

The lender with the highest exposure to a stressed borrower will be authorised to formulate the resolution plan, which will be presented to all lenders for their approval.

HDFC Bank, one of the large lenders, which is yet to sign the agreement, has sought a clarification from the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on 'exclusive security', wherein, if a security of a borrower is exclusively pledged to one particular bank in a consortium, then what will be the solution in case lenders decide to liquidate all the securities that are pledged.

According to banking industry sources, the lender is awaiting the clarification before signing the agreement.

"IBA is looking into the matter and the issue should be resolved shortly," a banker said, adding that by next week a few other lenders, including HDFC Bank, were likely to come on board.

Other banks

IndusInd Bank is another private sector lender which is yet to sign the agreement. Among public sector banks, Indian Bank is yet to sign the agreement. The primary objective of the agreement is to focus on the ₹50 crore-₹500 crore and the ₹500 crore-₹2,000 crore categories.

It is estimated that there are ₹2.1 lakh crore of stressed assets in the ₹50 crore to ₹500 crore category.

The total stress in public sector banks is estimated at ₹10.6 lakh crore, as on March 31, 2018.

Jet defers quarterly results

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Amid concerns over its deteriorating financial health, Jet Airways on Thursday deferred the announcement of its quarterly results to an unspecified date, after the board meeting which lasted for more than three hours here.

"This is to inform that the Board of Directors of the Company, at its Meeting held today [Thursday], deferred the matter of consideration of the unaudited financial results for the quarter ended 30 June, 2018," Jet Airways said in a filing to exchanges.

The Audit Committee "did not recommend the financial results to the board for its approval, pending closure of certain matters."

'Can't accept ONGC as promoter'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Virtually rejecting Oil and Natural Gas Corp.'s (ONGC) demand, Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd. (HPCL) has said it was acting as per its understanding of the statute in not recognising the new majority shareholder as its promoter.

"Whatever we are doing, whatever we have done and whatever we will be doing will be as per our understanding of the statute and the guidelines and Companies Act and the SEBI guidelines...," HPCL CMD Mukesh Kumar Surana told reporters here.

Mr. Surana was asked about ONGC seeking recognition as the promoter of the company post-acquisition of a majority stake in HPCL.

UAE top source of inward remittances in 2016-17: RBI

'Maximum funds sent to Kerala, mostly for family expenses'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged as the top source of inward remittances, while Kerala has received the maximum funds sent from abroad, according to the Reserve Bank of India's survey of inward remittances for 2016-17.

UAE's share in total remittances was 26.9%, followed by the United States (22.9%), Saudi Arabia (11.6%), Qatar (6.5%) and Kuwait (5.5%).

According to the survey, 82% of the total remittances received by India originated from eight countries – UAE, the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, the United Kingdom and Malaysia.



▪ GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

Among destinations, Kerala has the highest share with 19%, followed by Maharashtra (16.7%), Karnataka (15%), Tamil Nadu (8%) and Delhi (5.9%).

Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu together received 58.7% of total remittances.

"More than half of remittances received by Indian residents were used for family maintenance, i.e., consumption (59.2%), followed by deposits in banks (20%) and investments in landed property and shares (8.3%)," the survey said.

'RDA most popular'

The rupee drawing arrangement (RDA) is the most popular channel of remittances which accounts for 75.2% of remittances, followed by SWIFT (19.5%), direct transfers (3.4%) and cheques and drafts (1.9%).

Private banks got the lions share in total remittances with 74.1%, while public sector banks share was 17.3% and the remaining with foreign banks.

German auto parts maker Continental bets big on India, to ramp up headcount

Firm to invest a 'high three-digit crore rupees' within 2 years, says board official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Continental AG, a German maker of automotive components, plans to invest a "high three-digit crore rupees" within the next two years in India and plans to ramp up the number of employees in the country to 10,000 over the same period, said Frank Jourdan, member of the executive board of Continental and president of the chassis and safety division.

"Today [the company] celebrates its 10th year producing systems and components for safe, clean and intelligent mobility locally in India," Mr. Jourdan told reporters here on Thursday. "Continental has been serving the Indian market for almost 50 years. This sum [investment] entails the extension of the capacity of all its divisions as well as greenfield investments, spanning across key automotive hubs.



Key market: India is an important market and R&D hub for Continental, says board member Frank Jourdan. ▪ AP

Cusp of transformation

"The global automotive industry is at the cusp of transformation; the largest it may have seen in its 130-year history," he said.

"We are making investments where it matters. India is an important market and R&D hub for Continental, and it is in our strategy to bet big on this market."

Currently, the automotive supplier, tyre manufacturer and industrial partner operates across India – with over 8,000 employees across 15 locations, including eight plants that cater to the Indian market, and a technical centre that supports Continental's global R&D activities.

Prashanth Doreswamy, head of Continental India, said: "With competent resources and proven Continental technologies, the timely investment will propel our localisations efforts for safe, clean and intelligent mobility, for both passenger cars and two-wheeler segments".

Future readiness is a priority for the manufacturing sector, he added.

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IN BRIEF



Nissan rolls out Sporty Micra at ₹5.03 lakh

CHENNAI

Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. rolled out the 'Sporty' variant of its premium hatchback Micra. "With a host of fun, intelligent and enhanced safety features, the new Nissan Micra is the best value-for-money premium hatchback available in India today. The more intelligent and more sporty new Nissan Micra is available at a starting price of ₹5.03 lakh across India," said Hardeep Singh Brar, director, NMIPL.

Ramco Systems bags order from AP Cargo

CHENNAI

Software firm Ramco Systems said it had bagged a "multi-million dollar" order from Manila-based air freight leader AP Cargo Logistic Network Corp. to implement its logistics software. AP Cargo would implement the software to "streamline its freight operations countrywide," the firm said in a statement. The freight and logistics market was expected to reach $60.22 billion by 2023, it added. PTI

NMDC Q1 net remains flat at ₹975.27 crore

HYDERABAD

NMDC Ltd. has posted a standalone first-quarter net profit of ₹975.27 crore, an increase of less than 1% over the year earlier period's ₹969.20 crore. The public sector iron ore miner's total income declined more than 14% to ₹2,547.13 crore (₹2,970.13 crore). NMDC on Thursday said the company's production and sales of iron ore for the quarter ended June 30, was 6.98 million tonnes and 6.78 MT respectively.

Walmart may seek I-T view on liability

U.S. retail major expected to approach authorities for determining tax burden in $16 bn Flipkart deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

U.S. retail major Walmart may approach Indian authorities seeking withholding tax certificates for determining the tax liability in the $16 billion Flipkart buyout deal.

Following CCI's nod to the Walmart-Flipkart deal, the I-T department expects Walmart to approach it under Section 197 of the Income Tax Act within a fortnight.

"We were told that the deal would be closed within a week of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approval. So we expect them to file with the I-T authorities seeking withholding tax certificate under Section 197 within a fortnight," an I-T official said.

Under Section 197, any NRI selling shares can give reasons to Indian authorities as to why they should be taxed at a lower or nil rate in India.



Eyeing sops: Under Sec. 197, any NRI selling shares can give reasons why they should be taxed at lower rate in India. ▪AFP

Walmart last month assured the I-T department that it would fulfil all tax obligations.

Bengaluru-based e-commerce major Flipkart had in May shared share purchase agreement with tax authorities, and the I-T department is currently calculating the tax rate that would be applicable for investors in Flipkart who are selling the shares to Walmart.

The I-T department is going through the share purchase agreement, reading in depth which investor has routed money from which jurisdiction and when and whether any treaty benefit apply to them, the official added.

Provisional assessment

Nangia Advisors LLP Managing Partner Rakesh Nangia said lower or nil withholding tax order obtained under Section 197 before making payment to Flipkart shall act as a provisional assessment of the transaction.

The payee can represent the case before tax authorities to determine the withholding tax implication on the transaction and the payer has to consider the lower/nil withholding tax order at the time of making payment to Flipkart, Nangia said. Walmart on May 9 had announced that it would pay approximately $16 billion to buy about 77% stake in Flipkart.

Significant shareholders in Flipkart like SoftBank, Naspers, venture fund Accel Partners and eBay, have agreed to sell their shares. Also, co-founder Sachin Bansal would be selling his stake to the U.S. retail major.

The department has been reviewing Section 9 (1) of the I-T Act, which deals with indirect transfer provisions, to see if the benefits under the bilateral tax treaties with countries like Singapore and Mauritius could be available for foreign investors selling stakes to Walmart. Singapore-registered Flipkart Pvt. Ltd. holds majority stake in Flipkart India.

MRF's profit more than doubles in Q1

Tyre maker posts ₹260.74 crore net

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tyre maker MRF Ltd. posted a more than twofold increase in standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 30, 2018, at ₹260.74 crore, from ₹106.53 crore in the year earlier. During the period under review, the total revenue from operations declined to ₹3,855.55 crore from ₹3,971.76 crore.



Total revenue from operations, however, declined to ₹3,855.55 crore.

NCDs secured

In a regulatory filing, MD Rahul Mammen Mappillai said its listed secured redeemable non-convertible debentures aggregating to ₹500 crore were secured by way of legal mortgage of the company's land at Gujarat and hypothecation by way of first charge on plant and machinery at the company's plants in Perambalur. Shares of the company shed ₹982.40 to close at ₹75,842.95 on the BSE on Thursday.

Sundram Fasteners Q1 net rises 17.8%

Profit crosses ₹100 cr. on CV demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Sundram Fasteners Limited (SFL), part of the $7.2 billion TVS Group, posted a 17.8% increase in standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 30, 2018, at ₹106.18 crore, from ₹90.17 crore in the year earlier, aided by a pick up in the commercial vehicle (CV) segment. "This is the first time the company's net profit has crossed the ₹100 crore milestone, said S. Meenakshisundaram, chief financial officer. "Besides, we had a relatively low base in the first quarter of 2017-18 due to the implementation of Goods and Services Tax."

During the period under review, the company recorded an increase of 22.4% in its total revenue from operations of ₹970.97 crore against ₹793.44 crore (net of excise duty) for the corresponding year earlier period.

Exports rise

Export sales marked an increase of 11.7% at ₹321.71 crore from ₹287.98 crore during the same period in the previous year.

The earnings before interest, depreciation and taxes (EBITDA) for the quarter increased 20.1% to ₹191.90 crore from ₹159.75 crore during the same period in the previous year.

"We have been sustaining EBITDA margin at more than 19% for the last three to four quarters," he said.

Jindal Steel and Power turns a profit

REUTERS

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. posted its first profit in 15 quarters on Thursday and beat analysts' estimates, helped by higher iron and steel sales.

Net profit was ₹1.81 billion ($26.37 million) in the quarter ended June 30, compared with a loss of ₹3.87 billion a year earlier. Analysts were expecting a profit of ₹1.33 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Jindal Steel and Power's steel sales rose 40% in the quarter to 1.61 million tonnes, the company said. While global growth outlook for steel remained robust, the U.S.- China trade spat poses some risk, the company added.

'Taiwan's Wistron to invest ₹1,150 crore in Karnataka'

'IPhone contract manufacturer to make components later'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Taiwan's Wistron, a contract manufacturer of Apple iPhones in India, plans to invest ₹1,150 crore in Karnataka during the first phase of operations, said Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary, Information Technology, Bio-Technology and Science and Technology to the State government.



Gaurav Gupta

Apple seeking tax breaks

"They will progressively manufacture components in Phase II and Phase III," Mr. Gupta said during an interaction with *The Hindu*.

"Apple is not directly investing and has given the contract to Wistron. Apple is demanding tax concessions and incentives from the State government.

"There is a long wish-list. As far as the import duties are concerned it is in the court of the Government of India. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the Department of Revenue and other ministries will have to take a call," Mr. Gupta said.

The Union Government does not want to reduce the duties on components as it will hurt domestic products, he said. Wistron's rival Foxconn has announced plans to invest $5 billion in Maharashtra.

Apple was testing the waters to see if the State had a robust manufacturing and export ecosystem, Mr. Gupta said. "We are engaging with them for the last two years; Wistron has already started" operations in a restricted manner in Bengaluru and had upgraded to a new facility, he added.

Mcleod Russel to sell more estates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Mcleod Russel India Ltd. may sell more tea gardens to remain competitive and adopt an "asset-light" model, while expanding its operations in the bought-leaf sector, an official said on Thursday.

The objective is to "bring the debt down" so that there will be reduction in interest costs, vice-chairman and managing director Aditya Khaitan told shareholders at the 20th Annual General Meeting (AGM) here.

"Tea is our way of life," Mr. Khaitan said, adding that each garden had to be seen as a standalone unit as the way of doing business was changing.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

Persistent and infuriating drizzle washes out day one

The forecast for Friday is better, with sunshine expected in the morning

INDIA IN ENGLAND

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON

What is a day out at an English cricket ground without some rain? After weeks of insufferably hot weather, London awoke to a persistent, infuriating drizzle, which washed out the first day of the second Test at Lord's.

A near-full-house watched and waited in hope as the rain started early in the morning and simply did not relent.

More than an hour before the scheduled start of play, the MCC's members queued up by the Grace Gate, in their prim suits and bacon-and-egg ties.

Sachin Tendulkar, it was announced, would ring the five-minute bell before the start of play; Sunil Gavaskar, M.A.K. Pataudi, Dilip Vengsarkar, Rahul Dravid, Kapil Dev and Sourav Ganguly are the other Indian internationals to have been accorded the honour.

All was in readiness but it was just another cold, soggy, miserable English mornings: summer as they know it here. Some spectators paid a visit to the MCC museum, which was open for free to those inside the ground; others headed to the library; while some others partook of a cold beverage or two, undeterred by the weather.

Constant irritant

Lunch was taken early, but the rain simply did not relent. A few Indian players, including Virat Kohli, headed to MCC's gym, while some of their English counterparts had a hit in the indoor nets. All day, the ground-staff worked without pause, clearing any water standing on the covers. The rain was a constant irritant, now slowing down, now growing heavier, refusing to stop.

Head Groundsman Mick Hunt stood in the outfield surveying operations; this has been some start to his last Test.

The umpires, Aleem Dar and Marais Erasmus, walked out under their umbrellas at (what would ordinarily have been) tea-time, but they quickly retreated after a chat with the ground-staff. There was a second inspection at 4:30 p.m. local time and a third at 4:45, when play was officially called off for the day.

The forecast for Friday is better, with sunshine expected in the morning and light showers – if any – late in the afternoon. The forecast for Saturday and Sunday is similarly good but more wet weather is predicted for Monday.

It remains to be seen if the rain has affected the teams' plans for the match.

The toss is scheduled for 10.30 a.m. local time on Friday with play set to start at 11 a.m. as normal. The close of play will be extended by 30 minutes, however.

India has played 17 Tests at Lord's, winning two and losing 11.

The team won on its last visit to the ground, four years ago, when Ajinkya Rahane scored a century and Ishant Sharma took seven for 74.

- Some spectators paid a visit to the MCC museum, which was open for free to those inside the ground



Relentless showers: A few Indian players headed to MCC's gym, while some of their English counterparts had a hit in the indoor nets as the rain persisted. ▪ STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES

'Cooling-off' tweaked

It will be after two terms of three years

BCCI REFORMS

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

The Supreme Court's Chief Justice of India (CJI) Bench tweaked the mandatory three-year 'Cooling-off' rule – recommended by the Justice Lodha Committee and endorsed by the apex court in July 2016 – sharply by adding the 'combination lock' to disappoint a handful of seasoned administrators in the BCCI who were aspiring to occupy the five office-bearers' post at the long over-due BCCI elections.

The CJI Bench revised the application of the three-year 'Cooling-off' rule to after two terms of three years that adds a long stint of six years, instead of the Lodha-recommended three-year break between each three-year term.

But giving an interesting twist, the apex court emphatically stated that a combination of a three-year stint as office-bearer at the State followed by another three-years at the BCCI and vice-versa will count as a six-year straight run and this situation would also attract the three-year cooling-off period rule.

Full membership

The court restored the full membership of Services, Railways and Association of Indian Universities and each of the three Ranji Trophy teams in Maharashtra (Maharashtra, Mumbai, Vidarbha) and Gujarat (Gujarat, Baroda, Saurashtra). But the Cricket Club of India and the National Cricket Club will only be associate members.

The court also restored the composition of the senior, junior and women's selection committees to five. The court has remained silent on the tenure of office for the managing committee and other sub-committee members in the State Associations.

Eligibility for selection committee members

SENIOR COMMITTEE
- Should have played seven Tests or 30 First Class matches **or** 10 ODIs and 20 FC games
- Should be a retired cricketer of five years

JUNIOR COMMITTEE
- Should have played 25 FC games
- Should be a retired cricketer of five years

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
- Should have played for India and be a retired cricketers of five years

In all cases the senior most will be the chairperson

- Head coach to be appointed by the Cricket Advisory Committee

Judgement has taken out the foundation stone: Lodha

'Disappointed because the very policy has been affected'

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Justice R.M. Lodha, chief architect of the cricket administration reforms in the country, is a 'disappointed' man following the ruling on Thursday by the Supreme Court that signals a new era in the way the game would be conducted henceforth.

The Court diluted a few suggestions by the Lodha Committee, notably the clause related to the 'Cooling-off period' and the 'One State one vote policy'.

"Honestly I am disappointed because the very policy has been affected. The dilution allows some officials to continue their domination which we had tried to end," Lodha told *The Hindu*.

Reforms diluted

"They have diluted the reforms which had all been accepted by Supreme Court (on July 18, 2016).

"The idea was to break the monopoly of office-bearers who have been long in power. Unless they are removed there won't be space for newcomers. Our reforms were aimed to stop these officials from building their kingdom for six years. The judgement has taken out the foundation stone," he observed.



Justice R.M. Lodha. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Lodha added, "Such reforms were needed to lay a strong foundation. We had worked very hard, spoken to so many stakeholders connected with the game. It had been a really long and comprehensive exercise. Our reforms had been accepted by the Supreme Court which normally does not make a lot of changes to jurisprudential aspect."

Wanted all States on par

On the 'One State one vote' policy, Lodha maintained, "We wanted to put all States on par because of the tendency in the past to manipulate votes. Western India will now have six votes and people will take control of these votes.

"Similarly, we did not want the government to play any role in the autonomous body like BCCI. Why should the government have a vote which will be controlled by the concerned ministries?

"We were not trying to affect the rights of the players. We were trying to eradicate the volume of fiefdom that some officials had come to establish."

Brighter side

Looking at the brighter side of the development, Lodha said, "I would be satisfied if the reforms become a template for other sports bodies.

"It will ensure good principles of governance and bring in greater transparency and accountability. The sports bodies should function in letter and spirit of good governance.

"The BCCI will never be able function in the same manner now. Once the new constitution comes in place, the BCCI will have to work accordingly."

Lodha's concluding remark conveyed his mood. "It was a great experience, very different from what I did for 21 years. It was a new learning experience. Yes, I will continue to watch cricket. Like millions of India, it's a passion for me too."

Administration is not a chance to enrich oneself: apex court

'The game is perched far above personal interests'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Cricket administration should not be treated as an opportunity for personal aggrandisement by the BCCI and State office-bearers, the Supreme Court held on Thursday.

"Office-bearers should not construe their position as employees with a vested right to a particular tenure of service... opportunities to a wide body of talent encourage a dispersal of experience and democratisation of authority," a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra observed.

Cricket administrators can now contest the successive election, complete consecutive three-year terms in office but would have to 'cool-off' before contesting election for a third term in office either in the BCCI or the State administration.

The judgement agreed with Justice R.M. Lodha that "dispersal of authority is a necessary safeguard to ensure against the perpetuation of power centres".

"Individuals who administer the game of cricket must realise that the game is perched far above their personal interests. Important as experience in administration is, it is far-fetched to assume – and far more difficult for the court to accept – that experience rests on the shoulders of a closed group of a few individuals. In fact, opportunities to a wide body of talent encourage a dispersal of experience and democratisation of authority," Justice Chandrachud observed.

The court said it was necessary to emphasise that the term of an office-bearer cannot be regarded either as an opportunity "to enrich himself". "Enrichment in the form of personal aggrandisement is precisely what was frowned upon by the Lodha Committee, and for justifiable reasons," the court said.

Satisfied with verdict: Rai

SHAYAN ACHARYA
MUMBAI

Committee of Administrators (CoA) chief Vinod Rai, reacting to the Supreme Court decision on the Lodha reforms, said it was a 'very positive verdict'.

Speaking to *Sportstar* from Ahmedabad, Rai admitted that the 'good thing' about the order is the fact that a fixed timeline has been specified. "It is a very positive verdict. I am very satisfied with it. It has got good things because it has maintained the main aspects of the (Lodha) recommendation," he said.



Vinod Rai. ▪ FILE PHOTO

About the cooling-off period, Rai made it clear that it would not be an issue. "That (the cooling-off period dilution) is okay. Sometime ago, even I had said that I am okay with two terms before the cooling-off period," he said. "As long as the nine-year rule remains, there should not be any problem."

Rai pointed out that one of the most important aspects is that the State associations will have to fall in line now.

'Stokes could have killed me'

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON

Ryan Hale, a former soldier allegedly knocked out by Ben Stokes, said the England cricketer "could have killed me", their trial heard on Thursday, as the ex-serviceman was formally cleared of affray.

Stokes, Hale and a third man, Ryan Ali, were in Bristol Crown Court on Thursday for the fourth day of their trial for alleged affray in the southwest English city on September 25, 2017.

After the prosecution concluded its case against the three men, judge Peter Blair told the jury to find Hale not guilty.

"I am directing you to find him not guilty in my analysis of the evidence," Blair said.

Hale, 28, was formally found not guilty and invited to leave the dock.

The court has seen security camera footage of Stokes, 27, brawling with Hale and Ryan in a Bristol street.

On Thursday, jurors heard that Hale told police in a formal interview: "I'm a dad. He could have killed me. I don't know why he didn't stop. It's shocking to see someone doing that to someone who didn't do anything wrong."

Mayank, Siraj will be watched

Lack of teeth in the bowling attack South Africa-A's worry

S. DIPAK RAGAV
BENGALURU

After finishing the last season as the leading run-getter in both the Ranji Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy, Mayank Agarwal had a poor IPL.

But the 27-year-old quickly put it behind him with a swashbuckling double ton in India-A's opening game against South Africa-A to start the new season on a high.

The Karnataka batsman, in fact, scored three List A tons in England before coming into the series and will once again be the centre of attention, especially with chief selector M.S.K. Prasad in town when the second 'Test' starts here on Friday.

Another player whose graph is on the rise is Mohammed Siraj, who continued his dream run picking a five-for in both the innings in the first match.

The pacer came into the series after picking up 15 wickets in two matches in England, and one more good outing here could brighten his chances for a Test call-up if a need arises before the last two Tests against England.

For the visitors, though outplayed in every facet of the game in the first match, there were some bright spots from which they can take confidence.



Another good show: Mohammed Siraj, right, picked up a five-for in both innings of the first 'Test.' ▪ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

On the batting front, only Rudi Second impressed with scores of 94 in each innings though the team will take heart from the fact that in the second innings, the batsmen showed better application and two others got crucial half-centuries as it almost managed to draw the game.

But the biggest worry would be the lack of teeth in the bowling attack. The fact that India-A was able to score at a brisk rate of 4.5 showed that a lot needs to be done.

Most importantly, the challenge for the visitors will once again be steep, for not only are the conditions alien, it is squaring against a strong set of India-A players growling with hunger hoping to catch the eye of the selectors.

Merchant Trophy dates revised

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The BCCI on Thursday revised the dates for the Vijay Merchant Trophy under-16 tournament, giving more time to some State associations to prepare for the tournament.

"BCCI has rescheduled the dates for the Vijay Merchant Trophy.

"Several associations put forward a request to the Board to postpone the dates for the tournament due to lack of preparation time in their respective venues," BCCI acting-secretary Amitabh Choudhary said in a release.

The league phase will now start on October 21, instead of October 3, and go on till December 2. The knockout stage will be held from December 8 to January 1, 2019.

While there will be 86 matches in the league, there will be 11 games in the final phase.

ISL set to kick off on September 29

SHYAM VASUDEVAN
CHENNAI

The fifth edition of the Indian Super League (ISL) will begin in September.

"The ISL will begin on 29th and the I-League around October 15," informed Kushal Das, general secretary, All India Football Federation (AIFF).

As the Indian team will play two friendlies ahead of the 2019 Asian Cup, Das said the league will have three breaks.

"The Indian team will travel to China to play a friendly in October while another friendly (most likely against Saudi Arabia or Syria) will be played in November (between 12 and 20). We will have a break of four to five days then," he said.

About head coach Stephen Constantine's National camp ahead of the AFC Asian Cup, he said, "we're still working on the dates. It is most likely to begin on December 14."

He clarified that the ISL would have a month-long break till the AFC Cup ends (February 1).

On the Super Cup, which pits the I-League clubs against the ISL sides, Das said that the AIFF would like to continue the tournament.

Djokovic shines bright under grey skies

del Potro withdraws with wrist injury

ROGERS CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TORONTO

Novak Djokovic defeated Peter Polansky of Canada 6-3, 6-4 on Wednesday, the four-time champion powering into the third round at the Toronto Masters before insisting that he was "comfortable" with the controversial 'shot clock' innovation.

The match was played under threatening grey skies which eventually dumped heavy rain on the courts just after Djokovic wrapped up his win.

Meanwhile, third seed Juan Martin del Potro was forced to withdraw prior to his opening match due to a left wrist injury.

Important results (second round):

At Toronto: Novak Djokovic bt Peter Polansky 6-3, 6-4; Karen Khachanov bt Pablo Carreno Busta 6-4, 7-6(3); Frances Tiafoe bt Milos Raonic 7-6(4), 4-6, 6-1; Denis Shapovalov bt Fabio Fognini 6-3, 7-5; John Isner bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert 7-6(3), 6-2; Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Dominic Thiem 6-3, 7-6(6); Rafael Nadal bt Benoit Paire 6-2, 6-3; Alexander Zverev bt Bradley Klahn 6-4, 6-4; Kevin Anderson bt Evgeny Donskoy 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(0).

At Montreal: Maria Sharapova bt Daria Kasatkina 6-0, 6-2; Alize Cornet bt Angelique Kerber 6-4, 6-1; Kiki Bertens bt Karolina Pliskova 6-2, 6-2; Sloane Stephens bt Franśoise Abanda 6-0, 6-2; Elise Mertens bt Zhang Shuai 6-2, 6-7(2), 6-0.



Back to his best: Novak Djokovic has now won 21 of his last 24 matches after a rollercoaster start to 2018. ▪ AFP

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TV PICKS

England vs India: Second Test, day 2, 3.30 p.m.; Sony Six, Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD).
Football: Premier League, 12.15 a.m. (Saturday), SS Select HD1
Golf: PGA Championship, 7 p.m. Sony Ten Golf
Rogers Cup: 10 p.m., Sony ESPN (SD & HD).
TNPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Courtois joins Real in a six-year deal

LONDON

Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois officially signed a six-year deal with Real Madrid on Thursday, ending his seven-year spell at Chelsea. Courtois completed his move after Chelsea confirmed Real midfielder Mateo Kovacic had joined on loan. Real posted a clip of Courtois signing his contract alongside club president Florentino Perez. "Today I am realising a dream," said the Belgian.



Chelsea signs Kepa in record deal

LONDON

Spain's Kepa Arrizabalaga became the most expensive goalkeeper in history on Wednesday after Chelsea confirmed his £71.6 million move from Athletic Bilbao. The 23-year-old has signed a seven-year contract with the English giants. AFP



Chandimal returns to T20 squad

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka skipper Dinesh Chandimal returned to its Twenty20 squad Thursday after serving an international ban for breaching the spirit of the game. Chandimal was included in a 15-member squad for the one-off T20 that will round off South Africa's tour of the island nation on Tuesday. AFP



Peng handed six-month ban

LONDON

China's former World No. 1 doubles star Peng Shuai was banned for six months and fined $10,000 on Wednesday for attempting to force her doubles partner to withdraw from Wimbledon in 2017, the Tennis Integrity Unit announced. AFP

Indian pugilists hungrier than ever

The presence of medal winners in elite events gives the 10-member squad a formidable look

18th ASIAN GAMES Jakarta Palembang 2018

Y.B. SARANGI

In the absence of the 2014's lone gold medallist M.C. Mary Kom, who skipped this edition to avoid hassles of shuffling between 48kg and 51kg for the continental event and the World championships at home, a fine blend of youth and experience will hold India in good stead in the boxing arena of the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta.

India had won four bronze medals, including one each in the heavier weights of men and women, in the Incheon Games.

Since the heavier weights have been dropped for the Jakarta Games, anything above three medals will be considered good progress.

The presence of medal winners in elite events, such as the World championships, Asian championships and the Commonwealth Games, gives the 10-member squad a formidable look.

Among the big names, World championship medallist and former Asian Games gold medallist Vikas Krishan Yadav, who landed a gold in the Commonwealth Games in April, is looking to assert his class again in 75kg.



Packing a punch: Former youth World champion Sarjubala Devi, at a training session in New Delhi on Thursday, will be keen to prove herself in a multi-sport event. ▪ PTI

Another Worlds bronze medallist and former Asian champion Shiva Thapa has wrested the 60kg slot from archrival Manish Kaushik and will be hungrier than ever.

Manoj Kumar managed a bronze medal in 69kg in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and will be keen to climb the podium at the continental extravaganza.

Confident

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Gaurav Solanki (52kg), silver medallist Amit Panghal (49kg) and bronze medallist Mohammed Hussamuddin (57kg) and Chemistry Cup bronze medallist Dheeraj Rangi (64kg) have tasted success at the top level and make a confident lot.

However, their campaign will not be easy considering the depth of competition in lower weights in Asia. The strength of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan across all weights is another noteworthy factor.

World championships silver medallist Sonia Lather (57kg) is rated as the brightest prospect among women.

Another Worlds silver medallist and former World youth champion Sarjubala Devi (51kg) must be eager to prove herself at a multi-sport event. The experienced Pavitra (60kg) will also be determined to cash in on the opportunity.

COUNTDOWN

High performance director Santiago Nieva was confident that the Sheffield exposure – which offered great facilities, tough sparring partners and a chance to meet World champion professional boxer Anthony Joshua – would give the Indians an edge.

"It's a continuous process of hard work which should help us get good result," said Nieva.

An interesting piece of trivia may encourage the Indians. "Historically, we have never done well when we have moved straight from a foreign camp to the competition venue. Our boxers seem to be home sick.

"It is good that this time they have returned home (from Sheffield) before flying to Jakarta," said well-known coach Jaydev Bisht.

A carefully planned schedule, which gives the boxers about a week's time to get acclimatised to the humid weather of Indonesia, should also help.

Depleted field for tennis at Asiad

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

For those upset about India's No. 1 player – the 99th-ranked Yuki Bhambri – skipping the Asian Games and opting to focus on the US Open, there is some consolation as the majority of Asia's best players will be missing the Games.

The Japanese provide a classic example as their top-7 – from the 22nd-ranked Kei Nishikori to the 206th-ranked Yoshihito Nishioka, the champion of the last Asian Games in Incheon – will skip the event.

With Japan focusing on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the race is to have as many players as possible in the top-100 by competing in the Grand Slams in order to achieve the target.

Of course, India will have the 117th-ranked Ramkumar Ramanathan and the 171st-ranked Prajnesh Gunneswaran at Palembang.

Korea's No. 1 player Hyeon Chung, ranked 23rd, who won the men's doubles title in the last edition of the Asian Games at home, will not play; Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin, ranked World No. 86, is also not playing.

The 76th-ranked Denis Istomin will spearhead the challenge for Uzbekistan along with a bunch of minor ranked players like Farrukh Dustov and Sanjar Fayziev, who have been on Davis Cup duty.



Ramkumar Ramanathan. ▪ FILE PHOTO

The women's field will be more competitive with World No. 32 Shuai Zhang of China the top seed in the absence of 17th-ranked Naomi Osaka of Japan.

The presence of the 53rd-ranked Wang Qiang of China, the defending champion, along with runner-up Luksika Kumkhum (91) of Thailand, and Wang Yafan (93) of China should make it lively.

Duan Yingying (110) of China, Sabina Sharipova (123) of Uzbekistan and Miyu Kato (168) of Japan will be the others ranked higher than Ankita Raina (193) and Karman Kaur Thandi (198).

Courage expected to score

BENGALURU: Courage, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Leading Stud Cup (1,400m), the main event of the concluding day's races to be held here on Friday (August 10).
There will be no false rails.

1 CHAMPION JOCKEY CUP (1,200m), rated 00 to 20, 2-30 p.m.: 1. Moon Blink (1) Kiran Rai 60, 2. Aqua Blessing (7) Shobhan 58.5, 3. Indian League (5) Antony 58.5, 4. Attaboy (8) Arshad 58, 5. Ultimate Power (3) Darshan 57, 6. Rigelray (4) Janardhan P 56.5, 7. Silken Striker (6) Anjar 56 and 8. Helios (2) Rajesh K 51.5.
1. ULTIMATE POWER, 2. ATTABOY, 3. AQUA BLESSING

2 TOTALIZATOR CUP (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3: 1. Alpha (2) Arshad 56, 2. Armin (6) Yash 56, 3. Great Celebration (1) Khurshad Alam 56, 4. Akita Pro (4) Zervan 54.5, 5. Bond Of Trust (5) R. Manjunath 54.5, 6. My Lexicon (3) Vaibhav 54.5, 7. No Opinion (8) Dhanu Singh 54.5 and 8. Wings Of Desire (7) Trevor 54.5.
1. ALPHA, 2. WINGS OF DESIRE, 3. AKITA PRO

3 LEADING OWNER CUP (1,600m), rated 30 to 50, 3-30: 1. Back Of Beyond (8) Md. Asif Khan 60, 2. Setaglow (2) Yash 60, 3. Hukum (6) Zervan 57.5, 4. Indian Pharaoh (5) Sandesh 56.5, 5. Gerontocrat (3) Antony 55, 6. Peluche (7) Trevor 54.5, 7. Casey (4) Vinod Shinde 53 and 8. Nyssa (1) Dhanu Singh 51.
1. GERONTOCRAT, 2. PELUCHE, 3. INDIAN PHARAOH

4 LEADING STUD CUP (1,400m), rated 60 & above, 4: 1. Knight Of Ke (10) M. Naveen 65, 2. Big Sur (6) Trevor 60.5, 3. Admiral Hatsu (8) T.S. Jodha 58.5, 4. Automatic (4) A. Qureshi 58, 5. Mickey Mouse (1) Rajesh K 57.5, 6. The Lieutenant (3) R. Marshall 57.5, 7. Ravelnation (7) Antony 56.5, 8. Royal Serenity (2) K. Raghu 55, 9. Big Heart (5) Zervan 53 and 10. Courage (9) Vinod Shinde 53.
1. COURAGE, 2. ADMIRAL HATSU, 3. AUTOMATIC

5 LEADING TIPSTER CUP (1,600m), rated 00 to 20, 4-30: 1. Natalie (6) D. Patel 60, 2. Jack Of Hearts (4) S. Mubarak 59.5, 3. Purity (1) Antony 59.5, 4. Amazing Angel (8) Trevor 59, 5. Croziet (10) N. Rajesh 58.5, 6. Romantic Haven (5) Md. Asif Khan 57.5, 7. Aleef (3) Samson 56, 8. Classic Speed (11) Dhanu Singh 56, 9. My Valentine (7) S. Imran 51, 10. Kings Kid (9) Sai Kiran 50.5 and 11. Perfect Prince (2) Rayan 50.5.
1. AMAZING ANGEL, 2. ROMANTIC HAVEN, 3. KINGS KID

6 CHAMPION TRAINER CUP (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 5: 1. Secretive Force (8) Srinath 56, 2. Silent Ruler (10) Janardhan P 56, 3. Star Man (1) R. Marshall 56, 4. Supernormal (9) Zervan 56, 5. Arrogance (5) Yash 54.5, 6. Ciel Etoile (4) Trevor 54.5, 7. Desert Angel (3) T.S. Jodha 54.5, 8. Foi Et Amour (6) Sandesh 54.5, 9. Meritorious (7) Rayan 54.5 and 10. Zehnaseeb (2) Dhanu Singh 54.5.
1. SECRETIVE FORCE, 2. CIEL ETOILE, 3. SUPERNORMAL

7 GOOD-BYE STAKES (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-30: 1. Kasauli (8) Janardhan P 60, 2. Eye Sign (4) Md. Feroz 59, 3. Aerospeed (10) Khurshad Alam 58.5, 4. Girl With Pearl (2) Vinod Shinde 57.5, 5. Another Rainbow (7) Raja Rao 57, 6. As Good As It Gets (11) S. Mubarak 57, 7. Able Master (12) Darshan 56.5, 8. Phoenix Reached (9) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 9. Tio Rico (6) Antony 56.5, 10. Striking Grey (3) Adarsh 55, 11. Island Pearl (5) Kiran Rai 54 and 12. Master Of War (1) B. Nayak 54.
1. TIO RICO, 2. GIRL WITH PEARL, 3. AS GOOD AS IT GETS
DAY'S BEST: Gerontocrat
DOUBLE: Alpha - Tio Rico
JKT: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Tamara clinches feature event

BENGALURU: Tamara (Md. Asif Khan up) won the N.M. Lingaraju Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Thursday (August 9). The winner is owned by Mr. H. Thambuswamy and trained by S. Britto.
THE RESULTS:

1. COMMANCHE PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 20: **LASSILO** (Antony) 1, Revan Star (Shobhan) 2, Securing Smiles (M. Naveen) 3 and Music Divine (Arshad) 4. 2-3/4, 3-1/4 and 2-1/2. 1m 30.03s. ₹26 (w), 13, 15 and 24 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 52, FP: 107, Q: 48, Trinella: 717 and 350, Exacta: 1,880 and 504. Favourite: Lassilo. Owner: Mr. K. Dinesh Kumar. Trainer: G. Sandhu.

2. STAR CONTENDER PLATE (1,600m), rated 15 to 35: **RADIANT TREASURE** (Yash) 1, Spirit Bruce (Sai Kiran) 2, Black Whizz (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Proudprince (Sai Vamshi) 4. Nk, 8-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m 41.00s. ₹58 (w), 18, 12 and 16 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 42, FP: 172, Q: 42, Trinella: 299 and 154, Exacta: 2,083 and 1,488. Favourite: Spirit Bruce. Owners: M/s. Blazing Saddles (PF) rep by. Mr. Niraj Tyagi & Mr. Vikas Sachdeva. Trainer: S. Narredu.

3. ANGEL DUST TROPHY (Div. I), (1,100m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: **BORA BORA** (Trevor) 1, Tarini (Arshad) 2, Siyouni (Yash) 3 and Emidio (Dhanu Singh) 4. 3/4, Lnk and 1-1/4. 1m 08.70s. ₹31 (w), 13, 17 and 31 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 76, FP: 224, Q: 94, Trinella: 1,309 and 547, Exacta: 4,158 and 3,427. Favourite: Helenka. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: S. Britto.

4. N.M. LINGARAJU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 45 to 65: **TAMARA** (Md. Asif Khan) 1, Subah Ka Tara (Srinath) 2, Alberetta (S. Shareef) 3 and Madame Sultana (Irvan) 4. Not run: Zafran. 1, 4-1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m 14.00s. ₹89 (w), 18, 12 and 20 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 46, FP: 351, Q: 86, Trinella: 984 and 601, Exacta: 58,311 and 49,980. Favourite: Subah Ka Tara. Owner: Mr. H. Thambuswamy. Trainer: S. Britto.

5. B. PUTTANNA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 30 to 50: **TEODORO** (Zervan) 1, Triggar (Arshad) 2, Lightning Attack (Darshan) 3 and Auric Force (Dhanu Singh) 4. Not run: Florencia. 7-1/4, 1 and 3. 1m 26.75s. Rs. 20 (w), 11, 18 and 51 (p), SHP: 51, THP: 103, FP: 93, Q: 44, Trinella: 1,676 and 1,158, Exacta: 5,878 and 1,382. Favourite: Teodoro. Owner: Mr. Arun Alagappan. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

6. ANGEL DUST TROPHY (Div. II), (1,100m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: **BEOND REACH** (M. Naveen) 1, San Bernardino (Darshan) 2, Panama (Antony) 3 and Princeazeem (T.S. Jodha) 4. 1-3/4, Nose and 1. 1m 08.37s. ₹185 (w), 34, 12 and 14 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 41, FP: 781, Q: 356, Trinella: 983 and 432, Exacta: 4,010 and 1,363. Favourite: San Bernardino. Owners: Mrs. Namitha Jagtap, Mr. B.R. Vinod, Mr. Satish Dasam and Mr. G.S. Sriharsha. Trainer: Appu.

7. TUDOR JET PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: **RAW GOLD** (Chetan G) 1, Bellerophon (Yash) 2, Youresohandsome (Nazerul) 3 and High Admiral (Vinod Shinde) 4. 1, 1-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 16.14s. ₹69 (w), 24, 16 and 102 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 150, FP: 333, Q: 202, Trinella: 12,451 and 10,672, Exacta: 1,09,391 (carried over) and 11,720. Favourite: Daisy Duke. Owners: Mr. K.R. Swamy & Mr. S. Inayathulla. Trainer: S. Inayathulla.
Jackpot: ₹90,999 (five tkts.); Runner-up: ₹10,263 (19 tkts.); Treble (i): ₹1,987 (10 tkts.); (ii): ₹2,793 (12 tkts.).

Mane cards a 'tree-over', opens investigation of rule book

TAKE MASTERS

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Udayan Mane attracted the attention of curious onlookers with a shot that landed on top of a tree during the TAKE Solutions Masters golf tournament at KGA course here on Thursday. The mishit, which held up play, tested the crowd's knowledge of the rules of golf.

On the par-5 fifth hole, from an awkward and difficult lie, Mane smacked the ball high onto the branches of a tree. The Indian pro had three options – to play the ball as it lay, declare the ball unplayable, or proceed under the lost ball ruling.

Mane had no chance of climbing the tree and hitting a shot, so it was impossible to play the ball. Incidentally, this seemingly impractical option has had a few takers.

In the 2013 Arnold Palmer invitational in Florida, Spain's Sergio Garcia famously climbed a tree and hit a ball with one hand.

The 27-year-old Mane did not want to be as adventurous, pleading his case for an 'unplayable ball' to the referee who pointed out that he could enforce the rule only if the ball could be positively identified.



Where is it? Udayan Mane and his caddie search for the ball that ended up in a tree. ▪ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Mane's caddie climbed onto the buggy in an attempt to spot the ball, but couldn't get high enough. Mane even asked the photographers to zoom in and take a photo of the ball. Once again, no luck.

While the discussions were on, a friendly black dog joined the fun. Mane, despite being under tremendous stress, stroked the dog's head.

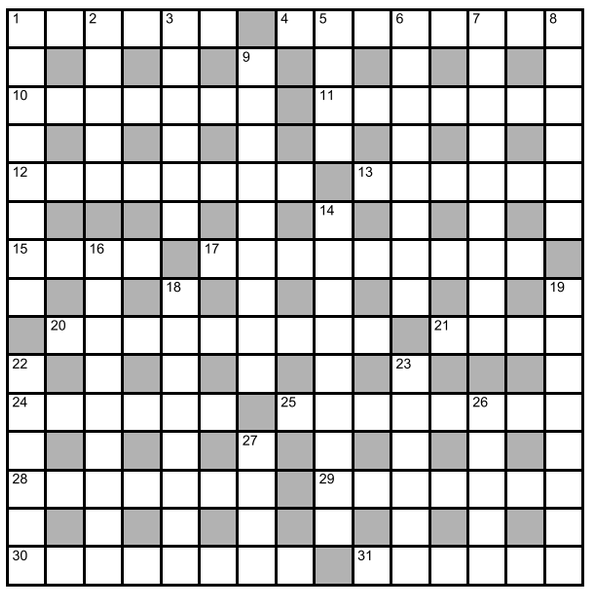
It was then that the referee informed the golfer that his five-minute time-limit was up. He had to replay the shot under the lost ball rule (one-stroke penalty).

Sriroj leads the field

Meanwhile, Thailand's Thammanoon Sriroj (49) rolled back the years with a vintage performance, carding a nine-under 62.

Top scores: 62: Thammanoon Sriroj (Tha); **66:** Feroz Singh, Danthai Boonma (Tha), Scott Vincent (Aus), Y. Sunadit (Tha) and Miguel Carballo (Arg).

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12392



(set by Spinner)

ACROSS

1 Hallowed pouch with vermilion (6)
4 Profession is work covered by payment (8)
10 Tousled curls having most volume (7)
11 Insects eating new bit of uncoated log (7)
12 Key into soul, possibly! (8)
13 Extremely decisive exam? Gets E grade! (6)
15 Raging sea eats up good times (4)
17 Old bottles in Spinner's pocket (9)
20 Head of organisation, trapped inside, is surely injured gravely (9)
21 Traitors turning their back on hero (4)
24 Understand small numbers (6)
25 Running away from ground, ceasing to absorb pressure (8)
28 Very Very short conclusion to puzzle by setter (7)
29 Old worker's kind of nice (7)
30 Taxing when Spinner's absent? Taking some Upma may be relieving! (8)
31 Bane, having lost nothing, overcomes resistance in penitentiary (6)

DOWN

1 Pitcher of beer kept in ship by soldier (8)
2 Cold-hearted captain's rule goes astray (5)
3 Avoids publicity, abstains from gatherings (6)
5 Multi-day construction or universal destination, proverbially? (4)
6 Criminal's scent all over the place leading to links (8)
7 Make plain design prettier by including ornamentation, essentially (9)
8 Attention grabbing start to song that is less difficult (6)
9 Introduction of ordinance disrupting a court is, in other words, lamentable (9)
14 Perhaps, point is, life's damn unpredictable! (9)
16 Tireless English unit's principle? Remove Kohli, essentially! (9)
18 Is model wearing one-piece garment in discomfort? (8)
19 Hybrid fathering without a cow! (8)
22 Stick bill at this location (6)
23 Nearly negate onset of Rickettsial disease (6)
26 Thoughts, surprisingly, said to hold energy (5)
27 Spotted in Chinese entourage (4)

SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12391

		N		W		C				U		T		
A	M	E	R	I	C	A		C	A	M	E	R	A	S
F		A		N		T		A		B		I		W
F	I	R	S	T		H	I	B	E	R	N	A	T	E
A				E		E		S		E		N		E
I	G	N	O	R	E	D			F	L	I	G	H	T
R		A				R		O		L		U		S
	A	U	T	O	M	A	T	I	C	A	L	L	Y	
L		G		R		L		N				A		A
E	T	H	N	I	C			T	O	W	A	R	D	S
A		T		G		T		M		A				H
P	R	I	M	I	T	I	V	E		R	A	D	I	O
E		E		N		L		N		N		O		R
D	I	S	T	A	N	T		T	H	E	A	T	R	E
		T		L				S		D		S		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Spirit of renunciation

The Gita explains the ways and means to bring one's body, senses, mind and intellect under control and this sadana is called "atma samyama yoga." The term 'karyam karma' clearly spells out the subtle values of spirit and attitude behind every act of an individual. It means 'doing what is accepted as work that has to be done and also not with expectation of any reward.' It also implies that only deeds aligned to dharma, sanctioned by the sastras, and good deeds have to be done.

Practice of living this committed way of life and giving up the fruits of one's actions is the ideal way of life for any individual for in this way one learns to renounce all worldly gains, pointed out Srimati Rukmini Ramamurthy in a discourse. It is also explained that the state of renunciation has no relation to one's status or birth, learning or faith; it is purely a state of mind where all attachments are given up. One should not confuse between outward signs of renunciation and true renunciation. There is a popular understanding that a sanyasi is one who has given up agni hotra and wears ochre robes; and that a yogi is one who has given up worldly commitments and retires into solitude to engage in meditation. These acts cannot be called renunciation if one has not given up desires or karma phala. The deep seated vasanas have to be destroyed and all kinds of attachment to worldly attractions, objects and beings have to cut off relentlessly.

It is thus clear that whatever life one chooses to lead, renunciation is the execution of one's ordained duties without an inward striving for reward. That is why Nishkama Yoga inculcates the spirit of renunciation in one regardless of whether he is a householder, or a sanyasi or yogi.

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IN BRIEF



Hima Das signs up with sports management firm

PRAGUE

Indian sprinter Hima Das has inked a multi-crore two-year deal with sports management firm Infinity Optimal Solutions (IOS), the company said on Thursday. Hima joins the likes of boxers M.C. Mary Kom and Vijender Singh, paddler Manika Batra and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu in signing up with IOS. The company did not specify the exact monetary details of the deal. PTI

Acosta joins East Bengal

KOLKATA

East Bengal on Thursday announced the formal signing of Costa Rica defender Johnny Acosta for the season. The signing paved the way for his participation in the ongoing Calcutta Football League. Acosta said, "I am thrilled and look forward to serving the club in all possible ways. I had my regular training sessions after the World Cup and feel fully fit to begin this journey soon."



Aussie teenager Arzani signs for City

MANCHESTER

Australian teenager Daniel Arzani has been hailed as one of the country's "brightest young stars" by a Manchester City director after he signed for the Premier League champion on Thursday. The Iran-born 19-year-old joined from Melbourne City. He was the youngest ever member of an Australia squad for a World Cup finals and played in all three of its group matches in Russia. AFP

Marijne looking ahead with fresh hope

World Cup result has raised self-confidence, says the coach

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The Indian women's hockey team finished eighth at the recent World Cup and its performance has given fresh hope to the team ahead of the Asian Games.

Top-ranked Asian team

The fact that the result pushed India ahead as the highest-ranked Asian side in the world has added to the team's confidence, said coach Sjoerd Marijne.

"We have a lot of self-confidence because we did better than the other teams. It is important to take that to the Asian Games and that's what the girls also feel," Marijne told *The Hindu*.

> **We need to intercept more balls and need to do more with them, then we will score more.**

With just a week's stopover before flying out again, there will be little time for any serious training, but the team will play Japan in practice games after reaching Jakarta next week.

"The defending was really good but we must not lose it now.

"We need to intercept more balls and need to do more with them, then we will score more," he said.

The pitch at the London venue was not ideal, but Marijne insisted there were no excuses. "All teams have to play on the same surface. It is not an excuse but a fact. The slow pitch was one of the reasons it was difficult to pass the ball fast and there were so many turnovers. Only Holland managed to do it, everyone else struggled.

"Same was the case during penalty corners. Not too many were converted by any team and the ones that were scored were variations because the pitch was a bit bumpy. In the last match also, the injection wasn't good and the ball was not in a good position to score," he explained.

The coach, however, was happy with the way the team adapted to the challenges.

"We started playing short passes more than long ones because it was more difficult to intercept short ones. Now, if we can combine short and long passes, it would be ideal. But we maintained the discipline and the structure, which was very important ahead of the Asian Games," he said.

As for shoot-outs, which let India down in the quarterfinals, Marijne was practical.

"We do it a lot in training, but it's not the same as doing it with 10,000 people watching. If you experience things, you learn from it.

"We have experienced this moment and will learn from this. I am confident we will win if we have to do it again," Marijne declared.



Ready to rumble: Sjoerd Marijne, seen with captain Rani Rampal, is happy with the way the team has adapted to challenges. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lyle loses long battle with cancer

The golfer was first diagnosed with leukaemia as a teenager

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MELBOURNE

Australian golfer Jarrod Lyle, 36, passed away after a long struggle with cancer.

"It breaks my heart to tell everyone that Jarrod is no longer with us," the golfer's wife, Briony Lyle, said in a statement on Thursday. "He passed away peacefully at 8.20 p.m. last night."

Briony said her husband had asked her to pass on a simple message: "Thanks for your support, it meant the world. My time was short, but if I've helped people think and act on behalf of those families who suffer through cancer, hopefully it wasn't wasted."



Jarrod Lyle... tragic end. ▪ FILE PHOTO: AP

Lyle was first diagnosed with leukaemia as a teenager and suffered recurrences of the disease in 2012 and 2017. He returned to the US PGA Tour in 2013 after apparently having beaten cancer for a second time. But the illness returned and Lyle last week announced his decision to forego enter palliative care.

Good day for Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HO CHI MINH CITY

Indian shuttlers Ajay Jayaram, Rituparna Das and Mithun Manjunath made the quarterfinals of the $75,000 Vietnam Open Tour Super 100 tournament here on Thursday.

Jayaram toppled top seed Brazilian Ygor Coelho 22-20, 21-14 and will take on Canada's Xiaodong Sheng.

Former national champion Rituparna beat Chinese Taipei's sixth seed Sung Shuo Yun 21-8, 21-14 to set up a meeting with Thailand's Phittayaporn Chaiwan next.

Young Manjunath staved off a stiff challenge from Thailand's Adulrach Namkul 18-21, 21-13, 21-19 and will face China's Zhou Zeqi next.

Kartik Jindal lost 21-10, 24-22 to Canada's Xiaodong Sheng.

CRICKET

Joshi, Powar among coach applicants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India spinners Sunil Joshi and Ramesh Powar will be among 20 candidates to be interviewed for the role of the women's cricket coach in Mumbai on Friday.

Others who will be interviewed are former India wicketkeepers Ajay Ratra and Vijay Yadav, former women's captain Mamatha Maben and Suman Sharma, who earlier served as the assistant coach when Purnima Rau was in-charge.

Maria Fahey, who played two Tests and 51 ODIs for New Zealand, has also applied for the job. The 34-year-old is currently a coach at ACA Academy in Guntur.

Joshi and Powar can be considered strong contenders. Powar, who played two Tests and 31 ODIs, is already serving as the interim coach after the controversial exit of Tushar Arothe.

The left-arm spinner, who represented India in 15 Tests and 69 ODIs, has had coaching stints with Oman and most recently Bangladesh.

The veteran of 160 first-class games has also coached Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Hyderabad.

COA member Diana Edulji, BCCI cricket operations GM Saba Karim and acting-secretary Amitabh Choudhary will conduct the interviews.

The BCCI had invited applications for the coach's role after Arothe's bitter exit. He and senior players of the team developed serious differences.

Poorvi and Suryanshi to fight it out twice

SPORTS BUREAU
CHANDIGARH

Poorvi Bhatt and Suryanshi Tanwar set up title clash in both the girls' under-18 and 16 age groups of the AITA Championship series junior tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Thursday.

Ajay in two finals

In the boys' section, Ajay Singh made the final of both the under-18 and 16 events, dropping a solitary game in all in the two semifinals.

He will face Lakshya Gupta in the under-18 final, and Rohan Mittal in the under-16 event.

The results (semifinals):

Boys: Under-18: Ajay Singh bt Jitin Kumar Chetry 6-0, 6-0; Lakshya Gupta bt Uddayvir Singh 6-3, 6-1.

Under-16: Rohan Mittal bt Gurustat Singh Makkar 6-2, 6-2; Ajay Singh bt Smar Bir Singh Sidhu 6-1, 6-0.

Girls: Under-18: Poorvi Bhatt bt Tanisha Pranjal 6-1, 6-3; Suryanshi Tanwar bt Harleen Kaur 6-3, 6-4.

Under-16: Poorvi Bhatt bt Tanisha Pranjal 6-1, 6-2; Suryanshi Tanwar bt Pawandeep Kaur 6-0, 6-1.

TENNIS

Prajnesh, Ankita battle into last eight

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
APTOS

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, the eighth seed, fought past J.C. Aragone of the United States 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 in the pre-quarterfinals of the $100,000 Challenger here on Wednesday.

In the $60,000 ITF women's event in Jinan, Ankita Raina survived five match points to outlast En Shuo Liang of Chinese Taipei 3-6, 7-6(15), 6-3 in a three-hour battle to reach the quarterfinals.

Other results:

$150,000 Challenger men, Jinan, China: Pre-quarterfinals: James Ward (GBr) bt Arjun Kadhe 6-3, 6-1.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Zhe Li & Di Wu (Chn) bt Miliaan Niesten (Ned) & Sasi Kumar Mukund 3-6, 6-3, [10-5].

$25,000 ITF men, Jakarta, Indonesia: Quarterfinals: Daniel Nolan (Aus) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2, 7-6(3); Jeremy Beale bt Karunuday Singh 7-5, 6-7(7), 6-3; Niki Poonacha bt Ajeet Rai (NZ) 6-7(3), 7-6(2), 7-6(3).

Doubles (quarterfinals): S.D. Prajwal Dev & Mohit Mayur bt Coongsup Congcar (Tha) & Connor Farren (USA) 6-4, 7-5.

$15,000 ITF men, Sintra, Portugal: Pre-quarterfinals: Terence Das bt Daniel Batista (Por) 7-5, 6-1.

$60,000 ITF women, Jinan, China: Doubles (quarterfinals): Anastasia Gasanova (Rus) & Ankita Raina bt Chen Liang & Qiu Yu Ye (Chn) 6-7 (10), 7-5, [11-9].

$25,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Quarterfinals: Y. Pranjala bt Kim Dabin (Kor) 6-3, 6-7(3), 6-2.

Doubles (semifinals): Rutuja Bhosale & Y. Pranjala bt Hiroko Kuwata & Junri Namigata (Jpn) 6-4, 7-6(4).

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IN BRIEF



Pitt rebuts Jolie's claim of poor child support

LOS ANGELES

Brad Pitt on Wednesday rebutted claims that he had failed to support his children and accused his estranged wife Angelina Jolie of trying to manipulate the media in their long drawn-out divorce. Pitt's attorneys said the actor had paid over $1.3 million in bills for Jolie and their six children since their 2016 separation. REUTERS



British Museum to return looted Iraqi antiquities

LONDON

The British Museum said on Thursday that it was returning to Iraq a collection of looted antiquities up to 5,000 years old, after identifying the exact temple they came from. The items were identical to cones found on a site in the ancient city of Girsu, now known as Tello, in Iraq. AFP

Teeth from ancient mega-shark discovered on Australian beach

The prehistoric fish, twice the length of the great white, lived 25 million years ago

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MELBOURNE

A rare set of teeth from a giant prehistoric mega-shark twice the size of the great white have been found on an Australian beach by a keen-eyed amateur enthusiast, scientists said on Thursday.

Philip Mullaly was strolling along an area known as a fossil hotspot at Jan Juc, on the country's famous Great Ocean Road some 100 km from Melbourne, when he made the find.

"I was walking along the beach looking for fossils, turned and saw this shining glint in a boulder and saw a quarter of the tooth exposed," he said.

"I was immediately excited, it was just perfect and I knew it was an important find that needed to be shared with people."

He told Museums Victoria, and Erich Fitzgerald, senior curator of vertebrate palaeontology, confirmed that the seven-centimetre-long teeth were from an extinct species of predator known as the great jagged narrow-toothed shark (*Carcharocles angustidens*). The shark, which stalked Australia's oceans around 25 million years ago, feasting on small whales and penguins, could grow more than nine metres long, almost twice the length of today's great white shark.



Souvenir from the past: Fossil enthusiast Philip Mullaly displaying a giant shark tooth. ▪ AFP

"These teeth are of international significance, as they represent one of just three associated groupings of *Carcharocles angustidens* teeth in the world, and the very first set to ever be discovered in Australia," Mr. Fitzgerald said.

Rare find

He suspected that the teeth came from one individual shark and there might be more entombed in the rock. So he led a team of palaeontologists, volunteers, and Mr. Mullaly on two expeditions earlier this year to excavate the site, collecting more than 40 teeth in total.

Most came from the mega-shark, but several smaller teeth were also found from the sixgill shark (*Hexanchus*), which still exists today. The sixgill teeth were from several different individuals and would have become dislodged as they scavenged on the carcass of the prehistoric shark.

Want to be a dad? Wear boxers, not skin-tight briefs

Study says underwear choice could affect sperm count

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Men trying to become a father are better off wearing loose underwear, according to a study published on Thursday.

Compared to men who favour snug-fitting briefs, devotees of boxer shorts had a significantly higher count and concentration of sperm, researchers reported in the journal *Human Reproduction*. The sperm were also more lively, and levels of a reproductive hormone were more favourable to generating offspring.

Researchers led by Lidia Minguez-Alarcon of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston examined 656 men of normal weight, aged 18 to 56, whose partners were seeking infertility treatment at a clinic.

Earlier research had come to the same conclusion, but with a smaller sample size. Corroborating data on the hormone, known as FSH, was also new.

Successful sperm production requires an environment three to four degrees Celsius below body temperature.



Science seems to have the answer to the boxers vs. briefs question. ▪ ISTOCKPHOTO

Cooling system

This explains the design of the free-hanging male scrotum, which is, in effect, a cooling system that places the sperm-making testes outside the main body cavity. Anything that prevents this cooling is likely to impair both sperm output and quality.

"The study provides reasonably strong supporting evidence that wearing tighter underwear might cause mild, but significant, impaired sperm production in men," noted Richard Sharpe, an honorary professor from the University of Edinburgh's MRC Centre for Reproductive Health, who was not involved in the research.

Ashely Grossman, professor of endocrinology at Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, agreed, saying the results were robust enough to merit a small lifestyle change when in doubt.

"It is a simple measure to wear boxer shorts when there is uncertainty regarding fertility," he commented.

At the same time, none of the men surveyed – whether they wore boxers, jockeys or briefs – showed sperm counts below the normal range.

Experts noted a number of gaps in the new study that left room for uncertainty, and highlighted the need for follow up research.

While each participant provided a sperm and blood sample, sartorial habits were self-reported.

Japanese firms admit to false emissions data

Suzuki Motor, Mazda and Yamaha conducted incomplete vehicle inspections

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Japan's Suzuki Motor, Mazda and Yamaha have admitted using false emissions data for some vehicles, the Transport Ministry said on Thursday, in the latest product quality scandal to hit the country's auto sector.

The companies came forward after the Ministry last month ordered 23 auto and motorbike companies to conduct in-house probes after it emerged Nissan and Subaru had cheated on fuel economy and emissions data. All three reported "inappropriate handling" of vehicle inspections, the Ministry said.

The companies admitted incomplete emissions tests were done on some of its vehicles, but their officials certified the results as though the tests had been administered fully.

Suzuki admitted improper inspections on 6,401 vehicles, or nearly half of those subject to sample checking, between 2012 and 2018.

Mazda said it 72 vehicles or 3.8% of those in its sample were affected, while Yamaha put the figure at 2.1% of its motorbike sample.

Strict action

"This is extremely regrettable as this may cause doubts among automobile users about vehicle performance and the quality-control structures of automakers," Transport Minister Keiichi Ishii said in a statement.

The Ministry said it would "examine their reports and take strict measures if necessary". It said most of the 20 other companies asked to examine their data had reported no misconduct, while several others were still investigating. Investors dumped shares of the three firms after the news.

Indian telescope spots distant galaxy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON/PUNE

Astronomers have used an Indian telescope to discover the most distant radio galaxy ever known, located at a distance of 12 billion light-years.

The galaxy, from a time when the universe was only 7% of its current age was found using the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) in Pune.

GMRT is an array of thirty fully steerable parabolic radio telescopes of 45-metre diameter. It is operated by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics.



A dish of the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope. ▪ WIKIPEDIA

The distance to this galaxy was determined using the Gemini North telescope in Hawaii and the Large Binocular Telescope in Arizona. The galaxy is perceived as it looked when the universe was only a billion years old, according to the study appearing in the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

This also means that the light from this galaxy is almost 12 billion years old.

"It is very surprising how these galaxies have built up their mass in such a short period of time," said Aayush Saxena from Leiden Observatory in the Netherlands.

"Bright radio galaxies harbour supermassive black holes. It is amazing to find such objects as early in the history of the universe; the time for these supermassive black holes to form and grow must have been very short," said Huub Rottgering, also from Leiden Observatory.

Radio galaxies are very rare objects in the universe. They are colossal galaxies with a supermassive black hole in their centre.